



# THE TIMES



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George Walden's poison pen  
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EVERY WEEKDAY

- Party director is sacked over leaked speech
- E-mail searched in hunt for Smith Sq mole

## Tories mutiny over end of Thatcherism

BY ANDREW PIERCE

THE Tory Party was in crisis last night over the leadership's attempt to downgrade Thatcherism after a senior party director was accused of disloyalty and sacked.

Michael Simmonds, the 600,000-a-year director of marketing and membership, was called in by the party chairman Michael Ancram at 8.30am yesterday, branded a leaker and told to clear his desk immediately. Mr Ancram was acting on William Hague's orders after Central Office traced every e-mail and fax sent from the building.

The sacking — the first of its kind for 50 years — came after a report in *The Times* on Saturday which disclosed the original draft of a speech Peter Lilley, the deputy leader, gave last Tuesday as Tories celebrated the 20th anniversary of Margaret Thatcher's first election victory. But he was forced to water it down after the furious intervention of Shadow Cabinet colleagues. Mr Simmonds was accused of being behind the leak, which seriously embarrassed Mr Lilley.



We've trained him to sniff out dodgy e-mails

The parliamentary party is in crisis over the Lilley speech... I have seriously underestimated the scale of dissent on the backbenches. William has to do something about it!

— James Arbuthnot,  
Tory Chief Whip

His dismissal came as one of the party's most senior figures admitted that the confidant over the Tory policy review was pitching the party into crisis. James Arbuthnot, the Chief Whip, told a Central Office strategy meeting yesterday morning: "The parliamentary party is in crisis over the Lilley speech." At luncheon, he called a second meeting, and told senior party figures that at the meeting a few hours earlier he had "massively un-

derestimated the scale of dissent on the backbenches", and gave the warning: "William has to do something about it."

The abrupt sacking of Mr Simmonds — a party worker for four years who was special adviser to the former chairman Sir Brian Mawhinney — and who spent six weeks working unpaid for Mr Lilley's leadership campaign in 1997 — has prompted speculation of further casualties. There is talk of resignations at the party head-

quarters in protest at the downgrading of the party's support for free market solutions to cure the ills of the health service and education system.

The original version of Mr Lilley's speech was an uncompromising attempt to break with the party's Thatcherite past and argued that "most Conservatives always accepted public services are intrinsically unsuited to delivery via the market".

Mr Lilley was incensed by the leak and demanded to know the source. He spoke to Ann Widdecombe, the Shadow Health Secretary, at the weekend and effectively accused her of being the mole.

Miss Widdecombe, a vocal critic of Mr Lilley in last week's stormy shadow cabinet meeting, refused to discuss the matter yesterday. But friends said that she was "wild with anger" at the charge.

The party high command threw its backing behind Miss Widdecombe, but Mr Lilley still wanted retribution. "He wanted a body on the cross," said one party insider.

A leak inquiry was set up, and Mr Simmonds fell victim to technology. The internal inquiry concluded late on Monday night that it must have been sent using e-mail.

Mr Simmonds was called in and told to go. Mr Ancram broke the news to senior staff at 9am. They were forbidden to talk to the press. Details leaked a few minutes later.

Mr Hague overrode the advice of Mr Ancram and Archie Norman, the Asda chairman and party chief executive, to let Mr Simmonds leave quietly after the European elections in June. "We wanted to avoid any more bad headlines," said one official. "Hague was having none of it. He wanted him out."

Another longstanding official said: "The inner-circle does not consult, it dictates. Anyone who can find a life raft will get on it. The current atmosphere is bad. Very bad. Morale is now subterranean, not low. It is reminiscent of the last days of an East European dictatorship. People are trying to avoid it. We cannot bear to read the papers any more. Except the job vacancies."

He insisted there was no breach of copyright. The Tory T-shirts were different in colour and typeface.

Last night the Conservative Party in England distanced itself from its Scottish colleagues. "Another banana skin," said one senior Tory.

readers complained to the Advertising Standards Authority. The Church of England and the Roman Catholic Church also condemned the slogan as a "cheap stunt".

Now the store uses FCUK as a registered trademark and it has capitalised on the bad publicity by selling 100,000 T-shirts carrying the slogan.

Brian Monteith, Tory education spokesman, said there had been concern that using the slogan might have been considered "inappropriate", but he added: "It's aimed at students... They will have a laugh about it on what is a very serious issue for them."

He insisted there was no breach of copyright. The Tory T-shirts were different in colour and typeface.

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## Mercy flights for 300 a week

BY RICHARD FORD  
HOME CORRESPONDENT

MORE than 150 Kosovo refugees will arrive in Britain tomorrow as the emergency airlift of evacuees is set to become a twice weekly operation.

The group of refugees, comprising 18 people needing medical treatment and about 140 dependants, will land at East Midlands International Airport at noon.

One group of refugees are to be taken to a reception centre

in a former school near Castle Donnington in Derbyshire after arriving aboard the flight from Skopje in Macedonia. Another group may be taken to Leicester.

A twice weekly airlift of refugees to regional airports is planned after Jack Straw, the Home Secretary, told MPs that Britain would accept thousands of ethnic Albanians, but he declined to put a figure. The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees has asked Britain to take a further 400

people who have fled Kosovo and said plans were being made for flights every Tuesday and Thursday.

Refugees will go to councils around Edinburgh and Glasgow over the next three weeks.

Among other areas being chosen are Manchester and Oldham.

In Derbyshire doctors and social workers are getting ready for the second group of refugees to arrive in Britain since the Nato bombing campaign started. The arrival of

the refugees comes as the government has admitted that the number of people seeking asylum in Britain this year could rise to 62,000 compared with 52,000 last year.

The rising numbers have caused chaos in the Asylum and Immigration Directorate. The backlog rose by 10,400 in the first three months this year to reach 74,000.

War reports, pages 14, 15  
Simon Jenkins, page 20  
Leading article, page 21

## Students both guilty

A motive for the savage murder of college student Russell Crookes remained a mystery as his two best friends faced life sentences for the killing. Neil Sayers, 19, and Graham Wallis, 18, stabbed 17-year-old Russell Crookes to death at Hadlow College in Kent before burning and dismembering his body and burying it in a shallow grave. Sayers was found guilty of the murder by a jury at Maidstone Crown Court. Wallis had already admitted the killing.... Page 3

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## Ceremonial squabble as Dewar makes his last stand

YESTERDAY saw a small and, for Westminster parliamentarians, poignant ceremony. Donald Dewar conducted the last ever proper session of Commons Questions to the Secretary of State for Scotland.

Next week come the elections to a Scottish parliament which is to assume most of Westminster's responsibilities. Its new first minister (expected to be Mr Dewar) will answer for these in the Edinburgh assembly. In London there will be an abbreviated opportunity to ask a minister (probably not Mr Dewar, or not for long) certain questions about Scotland — but

the status and scope of the occasion will be, in the fashionable parlance, diminished and degraded.

So the 45 minutes after Prayers on Tuesday were a collector's item, and MPs knew it.

John Maxton (Lab, Glasgow Cathcart) was the first to put into words what was on every mind. He congratulated Mr Dewar on this "last Scottish Question Time" and wished him well in the new parliament where, Mr Maxton was confident, Mr Dewar was shortly to take control.

Early indication of the trouble Mr Dewar will face there came from the only Scottish

National Party MP present, John Swinney (Tayside N) accused ministers of secret deals to "carve up" Scotland's new parliament, which would be forced to "take London's orders from new Labour". Labour MPs clucked and howled with irritation.

The minister replying, Henry McLeish, called Mr Swinney "pathetic". The front bench well knows that in Edinburgh the SNP will caricature a Scottish Labour ad-

ministration as they always have at Westminster: as an English neo-colonial satrapy run by Labour's tartan Quislings and Uncle McToms. This sketchwriter, who has for more than a decade had to endure and report these squabbles at Westminster,

Mr Dewar replied that he was not sure it was for the Commons even to inquire.

Nicholas Winterston (C, Macclesfield) remarked that there was shortly to be a "massive transfer of power" to Scotland (Dewar congratulated him on "getting to the nub

of the matter with uncharacteristic speed") and asked the Secretary of State how much of this Scottish MPs at Westminster would remain able to monitor. Not a lot, it appeared from Dewar's reply.

Harry Cohen (Lab, Leyton and Wanstead) opened up what may prove an entirely new front. Asking about Scottish law on male rape (laws which he thought illiberal), the cheeky Londoner spoke rather as MPs do at Foreign Office Questions when they sold the Foreign Secretary over threats to human rights in legislation abroad. Mr Cohen's colleagues looked confused. An English progres-

sive thinker is in favour of Scottish self-government, but against infringements of human rights. Which trumps which? Urgent guidance required from Millbank.

Sir Teddy Taylor (C, Rochford and Southend E) asked how, as Scottish first minister, Mr Dewar planned to advise Westminster MPs of his parliament's doings. He replied that they could read about it in the Scottish parliament's official report.

"I am not sure," Mr Dewar added, in his customarily mournful way, "that was the most exciting answer I have ever given, but I hope it may be my last."

### NEWS IN BRIEF

## Poll shows pessimism in Ulster

Tony Blair will hold further talks with Northern Ireland's political parties on the deadlocked peace process this week, but a poll has shown that just half of the province's population believes that the Good Friday peace accord will survive another year. Bertie Ahern, the Irish Taoiseach, had been expected to join the talks at Downing Street, but in a clear sign that no breakthrough is imminent he will not. The *Irish Times* RTE poll showed that support for the accord has risen to 73 per cent, but 52 per cent believe that it will survive another year and just 26 per cent believed there would be lasting peace. Seventy per cent said that politicians should compromise.

### Libel impasse

A High Court jury failed to reach a verdict on a libel action brought by the Tory MP Bill Cash against the *Sunday Mirror* for calling him a "gullible turncoat". Mr Cash will decide whether to seek a retrial on the 1992 story, which said he deserted miners in his constituency in their hour of need.

### Quiz show wins

*Who Wants To Be a Millionaire*, the most successful quiz show in television history, won a silver rose at the Montreux Television Festival. The ITV programme has audiences of nearly 19 million. The Golden Rose of Montreux went to *The League of Gentlemen*, a BBC2 sketch show.

### Skateboard death

Kristina Jacobs, 7, died after her skateboard rolled from the drive of a house in Crowborough, East Sussex, into the path of a passing car, police said. The girl is believed to have been lying on the board when it was hit by a slow-moving Mercedes saloon.

### Beef is back

The number of vegetarians in Britain is falling and beef consumption is back to the level it was at before the BSE crisis started, the annual Realife Survey conducted by Gallup says. Five per cent of the population, roughly 3 million, are vegetarians, a fall of 0.4 per cent over the year.

### Race debate off

The Oxford Union has cancelled a debate featuring John Tyndall, the British National Party Chairman, after police raised security fears in the wake of nail bombings in London. The Oxford University debating society invited the far-right leader to a debate on racism on May 17.



The odd-job couple: Bernard Manning emerges as the Tories' answer to Sean Connery in Scotland. Diary, page 20

## Howard backs party leader

BY MARK INGLEFIELD, POLITICAL REPORTER

THE Conservative Party had been right to elect William Hague as its leader ahead of him, Michael Howard said yesterday.

Even MPs from the Right

who helped Mr Hague be-

come leader said that he

would be unable to count on

large sections of support

again. "He has isolated pro-

Europeans and now has iso-

lated free-marketeers. That's

a lot of people," said one.

Another suggested the criti-

cal point would come if the

elections show the Tories

beached on their present 27

per cent showing.

Leading article, page 21

Foreign Secretary, put up a united front yesterday despite the dressing down that he gave his party leader at a Shadow cabinet meeting last week.

Colleagues are still talking of the way he tore the speech apart, paragraph by paragraph, jabbing his finger at every new violation of the Thatcherite creed that he holds so dear.

"I think the party made the right decision," Mr Howard told *The Times* yesterday. "I think William has been able to do things in the party, in respects of organisation, in a way I could not have done."

"He has been able to look at things with a newer look than I could. And of course he was not as associated with the last government as I am."

Although Mr Howard, ac-

cepted that Mr Hague was fac-

ing an uphill struggle to win

the hearts and minds of his



Howard: standing down

own party and the public, he insisted it would happen in a

way I think the public will

come around to appreciate, in a

very considerable abilities and

I don't think we should be ob-

sessed about what the polls tell us at the moment because that

Mr Howard has decided to

stand down from frontline politics after Mr Hague's summer reshuffle. He claims that he finds being in opposition frustrating. He refused to comment on the row that has split the Shadow cabinet. "I am not going to say any more than I have already," he said. "If you want to know exactly what Peter Lilley was saying you will have to ask him."

There is history between Mr Howard and Mr Hague who famously betrayed Mr Howard during the 1997 Tory Party leadership contest. Over

a glass of champagne at Mr

Howard's London home, he

pledged his support the older

MP's candidature. In the end,

he ran himself and won.

Asked if he was disheartened by William Hague's poor

poll rating, Mr Howard said:

"He needs time and should be given time. I don't think we

should be obsessed by what

the polls tell us at the moment."

## Heads' union to back Ofsted

BY HANNAH BETTS

A GROUP of head teachers from a new union that aims to support Ofsted and education reforms.

They are all disillusioned members of the National Association of Head Teachers, who complain at the leadership of the general secretary, David Hart. Mr Hart led the move last week to ask the Director of Public Prosecutions to investigate accusations that Chris Woodhead, head of Ofsted, had an affair with a sixth-former more than 20 years ago.

Jim Hudson, a founder of the new union and head of a school in Milton Keynes, said yesterday: "The Woodhead decision was the straw that broke the camel's back, but we have been considering this for some time. When is there ever a pro-active, positive reaction from teaching unions?"

Most of the 30-strong rebel group are members of the National Outstanding Primary Schools School-Centred Initial Teacher Training Consortium, a group of 50 schools that has formed a teacher-training institution with the blessing of Mr Woodhead. Each has received an outstanding inspection report, and many are also "beacon schools", which are Government designated centres of excellence.

Mr Hart said: "They think that this is about being pro- or anti-Woodhead, but it is not. It is about integrity in public life." The new union will be called the National Association of Primary Teachers.

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Poll shows  
pessimism  
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THE TIMES WEDNESDAY APRIL 28 1999

الجمعة 25

# Teenagers face life for friend's murder

Judge delays sentencing to study implications of 'barbaric' case for society, Richard Duce reports

TWO college students who stabbed their best friend to death because "he got on their nerves", then burnt and dismembered his body, were last night facing life in jail.

Mr Justice Newman said that the murder of Russell Crookes, 17, posed wider questions for society, prompting him to delay sentence until next month to enable him to study the case more fully.

Graham Wallis, 18, had admitted murdering Russell in the grounds of Hadlow College, Kent, in May last year and was the main prosecution witness against Neil Sayers, 19, who was yesterday convicted of the crime at Maidstone Crown Court.

Mr Justice Newman said yesterday: "This brutal murder raises questions of the first importance touching both these defendants, their future life in society, the interest and plight of Russell Crookes' family, the interests of the defendants' family, the interests of Hadlow Agricultural College... [and] more than that, the interests of society at large."

"I have taken steps to see that at the time of the court sentencing for these young men it is as fully informed as it can be."

The jury, which took 80 minutes to convict Sayers of murder, had earlier passed the judge a note that read: "All members of the jury express their concern about the lack of supervision and adequate pastoral care of the under-18s resident at the college."

Outside the court yesterday Russell's father, Malcolm, an engineer said: "We can't comprehend how anyone could do that. Most civilised people could not. How could anyone do that to a fellow human being and a friend?"

Russell's sister Sarah, 31, said: "It has been a terrible ordeal for us. We don't know how we have managed to cope."

The families of both Wallis and Sayers refused to comment.

Detective Chief Inspector



Russell Crookes, centre, who was stabbed to death by his student friends, Neil Sayers, left, and Graham Wallis, right. They burnt his body and buried it in a shallow grave

## They entered the woods boys. They came out killers

Pair's motive for turning on their friend may never become clear, writes Richard Duce

ON A moonlit May night in the Kent countryside near Tonbridge, three close friends from the horticultural college at Hadlow went wandering in the woods, as they had often done before, to share the pleasures and enthusiasms of late adolescence.

But by the night's end one was dead, murdered in chillingly cold blood by the other two. All three were from professional middle-class families: the victim was Russell Crookes, the son of an engineer, the murderers Graham Wallis, son of a bank manager, and Neil Sayers, an army officer's son.

What brands the killers most of all is their detachment. They were callow youths still chained to boyhood interests, yet they were callous beyond belief. Having stabbed Crookes at least twenty

times and set fire to the body, Wallis and Sayers returned calmly to their college rooms to refresh themselves on orange squash and ginger-nut biscuits, returning later to bury the remains. Unfortunately for them, they could not be bothered to go down beyond a spade's depth, allowing a passing dog on a walk with its owner to sniff out the evidence 12 days later.

On May 13 last year the three appeared to be a close-knit gang calling themselves The Brotherhood, after a popular computer game on army tactics. They went to a copse less than a mile from the college, which they had named their "training ground". They would smoke and drink into the early hours, of-

ten missing lectures the next morning. They had discovered a mutual interest in survival skills taught to special forces behind enemy lines and, unknown to the college authorities, would often take sleeping bags and spend the night in the woods. None had a girlfriend, although Crookes made it clear that he did not like homosexuals.

Somehow, as time went by, the dynamics of their little set had changed. At midnight of May 13 passed, and the distant sound of the college disco faded into silence, the three sat staring into the remains of their camp fire.

As Crookes, wearing shorts and new Reebok trainers, stood up to go, he was stabbed through the chest and fell to the ground. He turned to Wallis for help but was stabbed at least 19 more times.

His body was rolled to the campfire, where it was doused with lighter fluid and torched. His killers calmly returned to their college rooms, returning later to bury their victim in a grave which, had it been a little deeper, might have had Russell Crookes listed for years as a missing person rather than a murder victim.

Sayers and Wallis had decided some days before that they would murder Crookes. Sayers had brought a pickaxe from home and the two had chosen a burial site but, in a trial run, the chosen ground had proven unyielding—

"a bit camp" and who wore his hair in a 1970s quiff.

Crookes was far from gangly—he was a big youth, 6ft tall and 14 stone. He is described as the most ebullient of the three, who began to bully the other two. At first Sayers and Wallis laughed it off but during the trial it emerged as the only possible reason.

Crookes began to taunt Sayers as being a "pansy" and referred to Wallis as "Lord Ponsonby" or "Gay-ham". Yet at the trial when Wallis, who admitted murder, was given every opportunity to offer some rational motive for the killing, he could not. He said it was Sayers who had initiated the murder. If there is any motive, it appears to lurk deep in the recesses of the male psyche that has not yet made contact with the real world.

## The two men who chased birds for 12,000 miles

By SIMON DE BRUXELLES  
SOUTH WEST  
CORRESPONDENT

AFTER a lifetime as a hatters' merchant, Harry Howard decided that he had had enough of making braid bows for trilbies. So he packed his bags and his binoculars, kissed his wife goodbye and set off around the world to watch birds.

A year later the 59-year-old Lancashire businessman can claim a world record for bird-spotting, having seen a representative of every one of the 202 bird "families" in less than a year. He was accompanied by a professional ornithologist, Derek Scott, who planned their itinerary of 28 countries with such precision that they missed neither a bird nor an aircraft.

Hitting their target required two round-the-world trips, six months apart. The first, lasting 54 days, took them to countries in the Northern Hemisphere, the second, spread over nine weeks, was to the Southern.

In between, they fitted in visits to Central Asia, East Africa and West Africa. They kept it up right to the end, with trips to Southern Africa, Mexico and Switzerland in the final weeks of the 12 months.

Altogether they sighted 2,726 different types of birds. But Mr Howard never saw his wife, Freda, again. Shortly after arriving in Brazil on his sec-



Mr Howard at home after his record bird-spotting trip

do in idle moments. He said to me: 'I have often thought that you could see all the bird families in the world in a year but nobody's ever done that.' I never forgot that.

"Many years later I was looking at my bank statement and thought, 'I've got enough money to go,' so I just got up out of my armchair and went."

Mr Scott, from Dursley, in Gloucestershire, was already a professional ornithologist who had recorded 6,400 species on birdwatching trips to more than 120 countries. He said: "It was more than just about record-setting. It was Harry's trip of a lifetime."

What made it difficult was that 40 of the bird families have very few species and in some cases only one. "Finding them requires some special effort as they are very localised, scarce, strictly nocturnal or very secretive," Mr Scott said.

Their epic journeying involved 80 scheduled flights on 31 different airlines. They stayed in 83 different hotels and spent 11 nights in forest shelters or tents. More than 12,000 miles were clocked up in 25 different self-drive cars over 89 days in 17 countries. For another 31 days, hired vehicles with drivers took them around Kenya, Uganda, Kazakhstan, Cameroon, Argentina and Madagascar.

Two dozen trips were on water. Epic footslogging included eight miles in deep snow in Kazakhstan's Altai Mountains. Once they waited three days to see a rockfowl in the Korup National Park of Cameroon, West Africa.

Since his return, Mr Howard has resumed work as Britain's last hatters' merchant. A few days ago he heard that an acquaintance was planning to take part in a round-the-world car journey and needed a navigator. "I was tempted for a moment," he said. "But only for a moment."

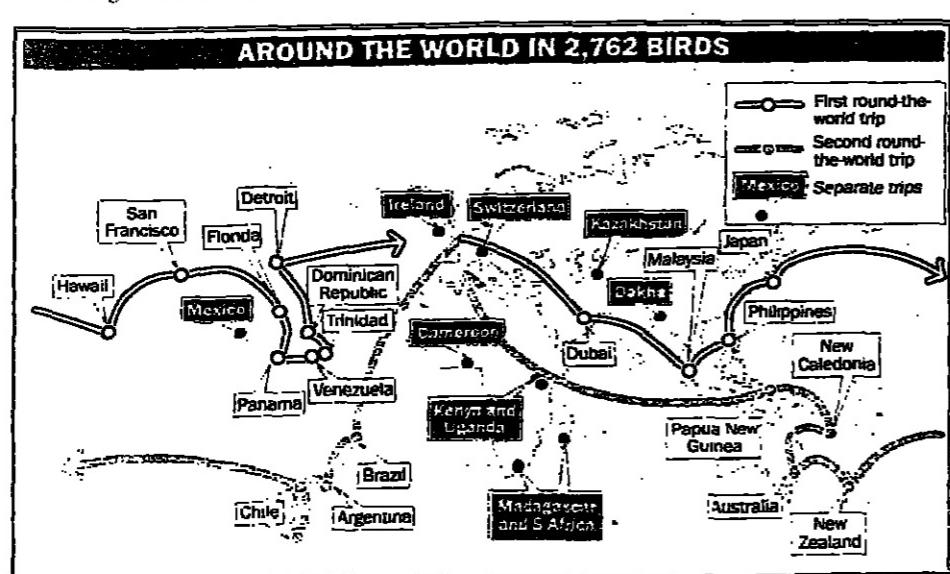
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# Gunman waited for victim's return

Witnesses saw suspect in street an hour before attack, write Michael Harvey and Stewart Tendler

THE man who killed Jill Dando may have paced up and down the streets around her house in Fulham for an hour waiting for her to arrive home, detectives said yesterday.

In what police described as a "brutal attack", the killer put a gun to Miss Dando's head and fired a single shot as she stood at her front door, holding shopping bags in both hands. There was no sign of a struggle.

Police have at least seven witnesses who saw a smartly dressed suspect in the area before and after the murder. The witnesses suggest that the killer was walking the streets from about 10.30am.

After the murder he could have rushed to a nearby park, dumped the gun, coat and a pair of glasses in the Thames and made his escape.

He was last seen at a nearby bus stop. Yesterday Detective Chief Inspector Hamish Campbell, leading a team of more than 30 detectives, said the killer could have ended his getaway by catching a bus towards South London.

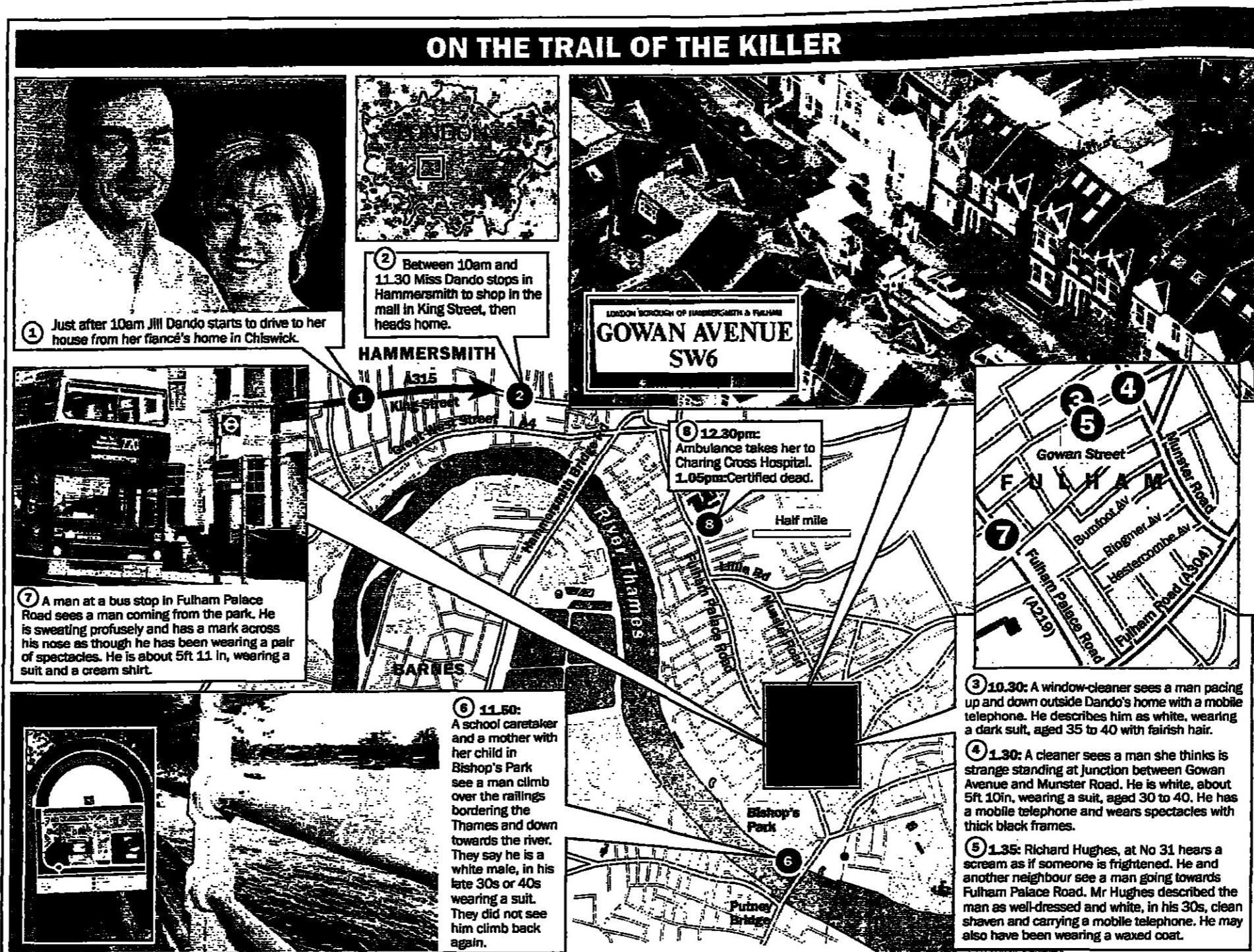
Bus drivers on the Number 74 service, which runs every ten minutes to Roehampton past the murder scene, have been questioned by police in case they picked the man up.

Yesterday officers began investigating Miss Dando's private life, tracing former boyfriends and talking to BBC staff about any threats she may have received.

Mr Campbell said that Miss Dando began the day at the home of her fiancé, Alan Farthing, in Chiswick. She talked to a friend on the telephone and then left shortly after 10am.

She stopped in Hammersmith and went shopping in the large mall in King Street. Police are now looking at closed circuit television to see if anyone was following her.

Miss Dando then drove home to Gowan Avenue and arrived just after 11.30am. A neighbour heard her get out of her car, switch on the alarm, which gave two short beeps, and then walk to her door. She was due to go to a fashion photo shoot in the afternoon and then go for a fitting for her wedding dress. Mr Campbell



said that her killer was either waiting for her or had followed her through the gate.

Richard Hughes, who lives next door, heard a scream. The killer pressed the gun to the side of his victim's head and fired. Police think that the shot was so close that much of the sound from a semi-automatic firing a single 9mm bullet was muffled.

The first man to see the suspect in the area was Alan Taylor, 55, who was cleaning windows at a house opposite Miss Dando's property at No 26.

During a cigarette break upstairs he looked out of the window and saw a man on the other side of the street walking up and down outside the television presenter's elegant two-storey terraced house.

Mr Taylor said: "It was about 10.30am I noticed this man. I thought he looked like an estate agent. He was suited and booted and he was looking at a couple of the houses. I did not take much notice because you get a lot of estate agents round here."

"It was only later when I found out what happened that I realised I might have seen the murderer. He was stocky, wearing a dark suit and he seemed to have fair hair. He was definitely holding a mobile phone, but he was not acting suspiciously."

Mr Taylor, who runs a window cleaning business in the Fulham area, added: "I did not notice him when I left the house shortly after 11. That must have been only half an hour or so before Jill Dando was killed. It is a terrible thing to have happened to such a lovely lady."

A cleaner going between jobs saw a man of a similar description at the end of the road. She thought that he seemed odd because he was wearing glasses that did not fit.

A few minutes later one of Miss Dando's neighbours saw the suspect running from the murder scene. Geoffrey Upfill-Brown, who lives almost opposite Miss Dando's house, said that he was going out through his front door to go to the post office at around 11.30am when he noticed the man running down Gowan Avenue towards

Fulham Palace Road. "I came out of the house and saw the man running down the road away from Jill Dando's house. I was suspicious because people don't run in this road."

He said that the man was wearing a black jacket and black trousers, possibly a suit.

"He was in my sight for about four to five seconds. He started off running fast, but then he heard my gate click.

He looked in my direction and saw me and slowed down to a slower jog. He went behind a lorry parked in the road and I didn't see him again. He just didn't look right, he looked suspicious."

Mr Upfill-Brown, 71, who has lived in the road for many years, said he knew Miss Dando by sight. After noticing the man he set off in the opposite direction towards Munster Road and the post office. He said he passed Miss Dando's house but noticed nothing.

Mr Upfill-Brown said police had interviewed him and he did not want to give further details, but added: "He looked as if he was running away from something. Afterwards when I heard what happened I immediately went to the police."

Detectives now believe that the man may have run through Bishop's Park, close to the scene, and reached the Thames where he may have dumped his gun, a coat and a pair of glasses he used as a disguise.

A mother and her young son reported seeing a man climb over railings to the river. She

was going to confront him about setting a bad example for her son, but stopped herself.

The man was also seen by a caretaker from a local school, Jim Collins, who works at All Saints Primary School in Bishop's Park, which stands between Gowan Avenue and the river, said: "I was down by the river at about 11.50 and I saw this man going over the railings. I think he was wearing a suit and possibly had dark hair." Neither Mr Collier nor

the woman saw the man re-emerge from the edge of the river.

Minutes later a man with a similar description appeared at a bus queue sweating profusely. One of the people in queue noticed he had marks on his nose as though he had been wearing glasses.

It also emerged yesterday that detectives were checking how many people visited Miss Dando's house after she put it on the market through a local estate agent.

Miss Dando, 38, who was selling the £400,000 property in advance of her marriage in September, told neighbours that a sale was going through and that she hoped to move out by July.

One neighbour said: "Initially she wanted to have a private sale because she did not want any publicity and curious fans rifling through her possessions." She said she was later surprised to see a picture of Miss Dando with the house in the agent's window.

## Weapon used in shooting popular with underworld

By STEWART TENDLER,  
CRIME CORRESPONDENT

POLICE believe that the gun which killed Jill Dando could have been a wartime souvenir or bought in the underworld for a few hundred pounds.

Ballistics experts have examined the bullet and the cartridge case found near Miss Dando's body and told detectives that the weapon was a semi-automatic handgun, firing a 9mm round. Similar guns have been manufactured in their millions by every weapon maker in the world since the end of the last century.

The ammunition was introduced as the metric version of the legendary .38. Almost every army and police force in the world uses the 9mm for semi-autos. It is a powerful round that would normally be fatal fired at close range to the head.

In Britain, Browning 9mm semi-autos were issued to servicemen in the 1950s and are still in use by the Army, Scotland Yard's marksmen and VIP protection officers

are issued with a version



A gun like the murder weapon can be bought for £300

made by the Austrian firm Glock.

Civilians are now banned in Britain from owning the guns by legislation introduced after the Dunblane massacre.

However, there could still be thousands of ex-service weapons and war souvenirs held in secret.

They are also readily available in the underworld and one police source said that a weapon could be bought for

£300 to £400. About half the hand weapons seized by the police from criminals in London would fit the general description of the gun that killed Miss Dando.

Underworld arms dealers would be able to supply a gun for a few days for professional criminals preparing a robbery or a murder. But finding such a supplier would be difficult without contacts.

Kate Broadhurst, a criminologist of the Scarman Centre for the Study of Public Order, Leicester, said: "The sawn-off shotgun is the weapon of choice for the bank robber... this is the weapon of the drug dealer and the weapon of the professional criminal."

She said that the gun could have been hired from a criminal armoury for a day or a week. A professional hitman could get hold of it easily, but a jilted lover or a stalker would have great difficulty. "He would have to make a conscious effort. He couldn't walk into a pub in the East End and get one. Your face would have to fit in those circumstances."

Dr Paul Britton, a consultant clinical and forensic psychologist, said that in his experience contract killers used a different weapon from the 9mm semi-automatic used to shoot Miss Dando.

"People think that it must be a contract killer, but a professional contract killer would use a smaller calibre," he said. "For a head shot at short range, a small-calibre gun is more effective."

## Murder detective's Crimewatch links

HAMISH CAMPBELL, the detective in charge of the hunt for Jill Dando's murderer, has been a murder detective for more than ten years working in Central London. Recently

promoted to Detective Chief Inspector, he is already investigating two of Scotland Yard's toughest cases. One is the sex murderer who attacked and killed 12-year-old Katrina Koneva in her home in Hammersmith two years ago. He worked with the Crimewatch UK team as part of the investigation. The other is the search for Gracia Morton, who vanished 18 months ago in Notting Hill.

Mr Campbell, 41, joined the police in 1974 and became a detective in 1979. He worked in the Anti-Terrorist Branch and also the Yard's Criminal Intelligence Branch before moving to the area major incident team at Kensington. He received three commendations in the early 1990s for his work on murder inquiries, a rape case and for anti-terrorist work.

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Campbell: heads team hunting for murderer

Record time in BBC news bulletins

# Record 11m tune into BBC news bulletin

By CAROL MIDGLEY, MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

JILL DANDO'S death broke audience records for the *Six O'Clock News*, the BBC programme she once presented.

Nearly 11 million viewers watched Martyn Lewis announce the murder on Monday evening, the highest recorded figure since 1992 and nearly double the average audience.

Previously the programme's biggest audience had been 10.6 million when the Queen paid a personal tribute to Diana, Princess of Wales, after her death in 1997.

Figures for the day the Princess died, and for the return of her body to Britain from France, cannot be compared directly because it was a Sunday and the television schedules were swept aside to provide a rolling news service.

The audience that day peaked at 8.3 million viewers.

However, many viewers said that the level of public shock was reminiscent of that after the Princess's death. Adam Hazelwood, from London, sent an e-mail yesterday stating: "It feels like a déjà vu of the tragic circumstances in Paris two years previous."

A BBC spokesman said that the overwhelming response to Miss Dando's murder was a measure of how much affection and respect the public had for her. At one point condolence calls were flooding into the BBC switchboard in London every two seconds. E-mails were sent to BBC News

Online at four a minute and the BBC website registered its highest number of page views — three million — since its launch in November 1997.

Monday's *Six O'Clock News* figures are unconsolidated and may turn out to be higher. That day the *Nine O'Clock News* audience swelled to just over 10 million and the BBC tribute to Miss Dando that followed was watched by 8.5 million.

A tribute presented on ITV — a channel for which she never worked — by Trevor McDonald at 8pm was seen by 7.8 million. "It just shows the strength of feeling towards Jill," the BBC said.

A steady stream of people signed a book of condolence at BBC Television Centre in West London. More books were opened at BBC offices around Britain to meet demand from those seeking to express sorrow and sympathy.

The next edition of the monthly *Crimestoppers UK* will be shown, as planned, on May 18, with Nick Ross presenting it alone. "Jill cared passionately about *Crimestoppers UK* as a public service programme and ... would have wanted the series to carry on," a BBC spokesman said.

Miss Dando will not be replaced as co-host on May 9 of the Bafta Television Awards, which Michael Parkinson will anchor alone. It will include a tribute.

Letters, page 21

## PEAK TIME

**The Six O'Clock News** usually attracts an audience of between six and seven million and it takes a huge news event to elevate the figures above eight or nine million. On the day the Allies went in to bomb Belgrade last month the figure reached 7.2 million at its peak.

When that Tony Blair took over at 10 Downing Street, the figure was just over eight million.

9pm with

Britain to meet demand from those seeking to express sorrow and sympathy.

My view was that the television coverage of Jill Dando's killing on Monday night was well judged. Such was the unexpectedness of it, if there had been less coverage we would have felt cheated of a conduit for our curiosity to know where did that bright, energetic, effervescent girl spring from? What was she really like? At what stage was her life when it was so brutally cut short? Why would anyone want to kill someone liked by all?

That the Queen should have been moved to comment was interesting on several levels. Perhaps the Royal Family used to find themselves remarking on Dando's likeness to Diana, Princess of Wales. Perhaps the

MANY lovely young women are murdered. Some people may have found it bizarre that one sad death should inspire the Queen and the Prime Minister to issue statements, the Home Secretary to address the House of Commons, and so much airtime to be diverted to make way for instant tributes.

Our reactions to deaths of public figures are not arbitrary. There are some we care about and others we barely blink an eyelid about. Televisonal fame confers an aura of intimate friendship on some. We read the obituary pages without feeling much when an aged general or a brilliant

professor has reached the end of a long and useful life. On the deaths of sovereigns and statesmen, media coverage is expansive but dutiful. Only a handful of people have the special qualities that cause genuine sorrow and regret among millions at their deaths. Kennedys, John Lennons, Diana fall into this category, cut off in their prime, afflicting even the most robust and cynical, etching themselves into the collective memory.

There is a gulf between the polite regret with which we greet news of some "household name" passing and the involuntary welling of shock and grief that is the true test of whether we care. Most of us, who saw Dando only on the screen, discovered that we cared.

Many terrible crimes go almost unremarked — children killed by hit-

and-run drivers, helpless pensioners bluffed to death. It is not heartlessness that causes our apparent indifference but the impossibility of feeling involved in lives that do not impinge on us personally. Then suddenly a death occurs that focuses our fears about contemporary society. Because she stood bravely in the studio appealing for help in solving crime, Dando stood for right versus wrong.

The fact that the news of her death came in the middle of bulletins about the racist bombs in London and the Prime Minister's statement on the Nato summit only painted up its relevance. Giving as a means of focusing our anger and compassion is vital in a vile and violent world. We are desperately moved by the plight of the Kosovo refugees — for whom Dando helped to raise £10 million with a televised appeal. Like the Princess of Wales's efforts for landmine victims, it left a final impression of a powerful potential for good snuffed out. That alone merited the airtime.



Another name is added to the book of condolence at the BBC Television Centre in London yesterday. Books were opened at BBC offices nationwide

## Why this death mattered to millions

Valerie Grove says broadcaster was one of a special few who deserve generous tribute

Queen often finds herself switching on *Holiday* or *Crimestoppers*. Perhaps — I hope not — Her Majesty was pushed to comment because her press office was asked to do so, and was mindful of the misplaced reticence on the last occasion when the death of a blonde thirtysomething caught the sentimental hearts of the nation. I prefer to think that the Queen intuitively recognised that Dando's shining likeability and proficiency on screen singled her out to merit a royal tribute.

Our reactions to deaths of public figures are not arbitrary. There are some we care about and others we barely blink an eyelid about. Televisonal fame confers an aura of intimate friendship on some. We read the obituary pages without feeling much when an aged general or a brilliant

Flowers form a shrine outside house

By MICHAEL HARVEY

THE pavement opposite Jill Dando's home yesterday became a flower-decked shrine to the television presenter.

Floral tributes arrived steadily throughout the day in Gowran Avenue, Fulham, West London. By late afternoon more than 50 bouquets lay lining the wall of a neighbour's house.

Chief among them was a dozen yellow roses sent by Nick Ross, her *Crimestoppers* co-presenter. Using the catchphrase with which he ends the programme, he wrote: "To Jill, we will miss you dreadfully. Do sleep well, Nick."

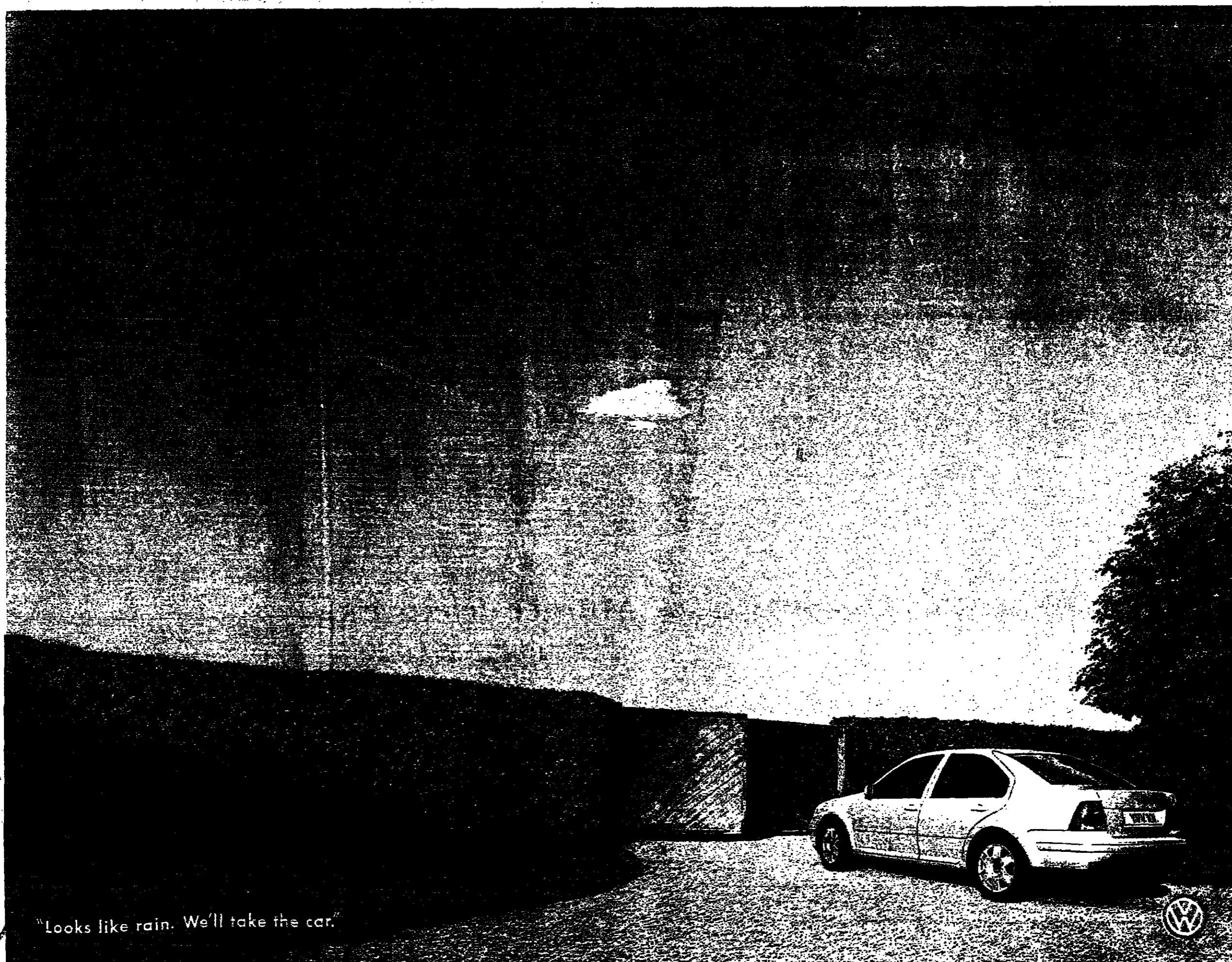
Next to it was another bouquet from other colleagues on the programme. The card on the dozen red roses said: "With love from the *Crimestoppers* team." There were also bouquets from co-workers on the *Holiday* programme which she fronted so successfully.

A large bouquet of pink roses and white tulips had a *Holiday* programme postcard attached with the message: "Dearest Jill, You touched us all. We'll miss you so much. With all our love, your friends on *Holiday*. X."

Her popularity among the general public was signalled with a wide range of loving tributes. One from Zara Behrada, 8, was decorated with a smiling drawing of the presenter and the inscription: "I was very sad about the sad news. I will miss you." Another inscription with white roses said: "Rest peacefully, Sleeping Beauty". A card with a bunch of pink carnations asked: "Can anyone tell us why? We've lost another English rose."

The flowers were delivered by florists from people as far away as Edinburgh. One large bouquet arrived by black cab. The driver said that a disheathed young man had handed them to him at Victoria station, given him £20, and asked him to lay them on the spot where she died.

Shooting  
the world



# Kirk opens its arms to prostitutes

**Church of Scotland wants moral condemnation switched to kerb crawlers, reports Ruth Gledhill**

PROSTITUTION is no greater a sin than adultery and more should be done to minister to prostitutes and those who use them, a church report published yesterday says.

The Church of Scotland, urging its members to "love" prostitutes rather than condemn them, is calling for a debate over the decriminalisation of prostitution. It also wants Scotland's new assembly to consider in a kerb crawling law that shifts moral condemnation from the prostitutes to the men who use them.

"Consideration needs to be given to ways in which both men and women can be supported and protected and can be helped to escape from prostitution," says *On Prostitution*, published by the Church's Board of Social Responsibility. "There is no evidence to support the claim that criminalisation reduces the level of prostitution."

The report notes that Jesus was descended from a prostitute, Rahab, and that one of his followers, Mary Magdalene, is thought by some scholars to have been a reformed prostitute.

While the Church views prostitution as immoral, it is no greater a sin than, for example, adultery," says the report. "The overused maxim, 'Love the sinner, hate the sin,' applies not only to those who prostitute, but also to all of us who sin in other ways."

It continues: "The Church's

calling is to affirm God's love for those whose self-esteem has been unimaginably diminished, to draw near them in love and, as fellow sinners, to offer the good news of forgiveness and renewal through faith."

In Scotland, unlike England, kerb crawling is not an offence, but prostitutes can be fined for loitering with intent, soliciting or importuning in a public place. They can then be jailed for not paying the fine.

"There is a body of informed opinion that fining and imprisonment are ineffective, that the offence should be decriminalised by removing the option of a fine which may lead to a criminal record and that alternatives to custody options involving rehabilitation should be introduced," says the report.

The Church decided to address the issue in 1997, shortly before the violent murder of a prostitute in Glasgow, one of a number of such killings in recent years. It comes after reports on gambling and alcohol abuse. One on abortion is also published this week.

The Church says that in Edinburgh an informal "tolerance" zone has been established where women are left relatively undisturbed by police as long as they remain within the specified area and there fewer than ten at a time.

The report, to be debated at the general assembly in Edinburgh next month, says that



The oldest profession: Glasgow police raiding a brothel in 1871. The Kirk report says that women should be helped to escape from prostitution

most women become prostitutes through poverty, homelessness and sexual abuse. "Prostitution, alongside petty theft and begging, is a survival trap into which women can be drawn only too easily," it adds.

There are thought to be about 5,000 prostitutes in Scotland, with 50,000 clients between them. In Glasgow there has been a big increase, from fewer than 100 prostitutes 25 years ago to more than 900

today, because of growing heroin addiction.

Church of Scotland counsellors work with those prostitutes who reach one of their seven drug rehabilitation centres. However, the Church no

longer has its Edinburgh "centenary" project, which ran for four years until 1993, and helped prostitutes to find alternative employment.

The social responsibility board is calling on the Church "to consider how a ministry to women in prostitution and to men who use prostitutes could be developed". This would take the form of counselling and advice, depending on any available funding.

Ann Allen, chair of the board and wife of the Rev Martin Allen, Minister of Chrysostom Church, near Glasgow, said the Church decided to examine the issue after charities such as Barnardo's and The Children's Society spoke out

about the increase in young people turning to prostitution.

"One of our major concerns has been how we deal with men who use prostitutes, what their concerns are, why they use prostitutes, how we can help them," she said. "We want to know how we can bring about different circumstances where women never have to resort to prostitution."

The board recommends that projects be set up in Scotland similar to the "John School" at Leeds Metropolitan University, where men arrested for kerb crawling are offered rehabilitation as an alternative to a court appearance. Results indicate that one third of men sent to the school do not offend.

## WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS

Most Bible passages condemn prostitution unequivocally. Deuteronomy xxiii,18 describes prostitution as "an abomination to the Lord your God". Proverbs viii,13 compares a man who uses a prostitute to an ox going to the slaughter, or a bird rushing into a snare. "Her house is the way to Sheol, going down to the chambers of death," says verse 27. Apostles are compared to the children of prostitutes in Isaiah lvii, 3-5. Revelation xxvi contains a graphic description of a "great harlot", seated on a scarlet beast with seven heads and ten horns.

However, other Bible passages express God's forgiveness of repentant prostitutes. Jesus' ancestor Rahab, a prostitute, was "saved by faith" (Hebrews xi, 31). Tamar, posing as a prostitute, was made pregnant by her father-in-law, Judah, who declared her "more righteous than I" (Genesis xxxviii). Prostitutes were among those who repented at the preaching of John the Baptist. Jesus said that those prostitutes, along with tax collectors, would enter the kingdom of heaven before some of the religious leaders of his day (Matthew xxiii, 31-32). St Paul reminds his Corinthian readers that some of them were once prostitutes (1 Corinthians xii). In John viii, Jesus invites any onlooker without sin to throw the first stone at the woman caught in adultery. When the crowd dwindles, he says to her: "Go, and sin no more."

**Reburial for a man who feared water**

By SHIRLEY ENGLISH

A WOMAN has won her seven-month fight to have her husband's body exhumed from his flooded grave because he was terrified of water in life.

Council workers reburied Allan Munro, 62, last week in a higher plot in Shawfield Cemetery in Selkirk in the Scottish Borders on Thursday. His widow, Ethel Munro, 57, claimed he suffered from a fear of water after watching his brother drown in 1958.

Flooding at the council-run cemetery came to light at Mr Munro's funeral last year when mourners were distressed to hear water lapping against the side of his coffin as it was lowered into the ground. His widow complained when she returned later and found the flowers and wreaths floating above the grave.

Yesterday she said: "It has been an absolute nightmare and for the last eight months my life has been a living hell. Losing Allan was painful enough, but to know he was lying in 6ft of water was more than I could cope with."

Last Thursday, on the day Mr Munro would have been 63, his widow and three grown-up children stood at his new graveside where a short memorial service was held.

A spokesman for Scottish Borders council admitted there had been a problem with a fractured drainage pipe at the cemetery after heavy rain. It had been repaired, but as a gesture of goodwill the council agreed to pay to move Mr Munro's body.

## KOSOVO Crisis

Hundreds of thousands of people have been forced to leave their homes, crossing borders with just the clothes on their backs. Many are still in Kosovo.

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## NEWS IN BRIEF

**Police shoot rampaging bullocks**

Police shot dead two escaped bullocks that attacked cars and destroyed gardens during a three-hour rampage through Dudley, West Midlands, on Monday. One of the animals repeatedly rammed a minibus carrying several elderly people, none of whom was injured. Police chased it into the grounds of a factory and shot it.

The other headed the wrong way down a busy road, colliding head-on with a small car before making its way to the Merry Hill Shopping Centre, where it was shot. Police are trying to trace their owner.

## Video error

An apology has been sent to parents given a video of a musical performed by pupils at Greycotes School, Oxford, that contained an episode of the Channel 4 series *Queer as Folk*, in which homosexual acts are shown.

## Ruddock cleared

The footballer Neil Ruddock, 30, was cleared by Haverhill magistrates of using threatening behaviour after charges against him and Richard Nelson, 21, were dropped because of "discrepancies" in evidence.

## Rank cruelty

Lance Corporal Nigel Horsley, 23, who ironed a hamster before roasting it in a microwave oven, was reduced to the ranks and jailed for 140 days by a court-martial panel at Bulford, Wiltshire.

## Dustman killed

A council dustman died when he was knocked down by his own dustcart. The unnamed man was believed to have been run over by a Rugby Borough Council refuse lorry in Wolvey, Warwickshire.

## Thames link

John Prescott will start construction today of Central London's first new river crossing this century. The footbridge will link the Tate Gallery of Modern Art with St Paul's Cathedral.

Leading article, page 21

## Get 'em young

Parking tickets were put on a Barbie bike and a scooter left by Julia Burgess, four, and her brother Alexander, seven, against the front wall of their family home in Finchfield, Essex, beside double yellow lines.

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**RADAR** *Radar, the disability network, shares these concerns about the impact of the Bill.*



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# Microchip may signal end of phone towers

A tiny new transmitter could reduce countryside blight, report Paul Wilkinson and Nick Nuttal

ENGINEERS at Leeds University have developed a transmitter the size of a cigarette packet that could make planning disputes over mobile phone masts a thing of the past.

It uses a microchip which, they say, will also mean a big cut in the radiation that is fuelling public concern. Michael Roberts, an electronics researcher who developed the chip, said: "All the equipment necessary to receive and transmit a signal could be included in a box the size of a cigarette packet."

"It would make the transmitters we see in the countryside redundant and drastically improve reception in areas where it is difficult to get a signal. That's because the boxes could be attached virtually anywhere, on a lamp post, a bridge, the side of a building."

A new chip the size of a match head, called a microwave mixer, allows low-frequency signals — a person's voice — to "piggyback" on much higher electronic frequencies, such as those used for radar, which travel at faster speeds. These travel without being distorted, allowing a receiver up to a kilometre away to decode the message.

Stavros Iezekiel, the project leader, said current technology sent silver signals that required larger, more powerful transmitters. "We could have a prototype ready within a year and it could go on sale for as little as £100," he said.

The interface needed for the boxes would be fibre-optic and that network almost covers the country at present. The usage we envisage would be mostly urban but there is no reason why a village could not have a single box, which would be sufficient.

He said one problem was

have a less damaging impact. We feel these masts should be subject to the same planning controls as anything else. You need planning permission to put up a porch at your house but not to erect an enormous mast in open countryside."

The telecommunications industry, required to cover 90 per cent of the country by the millennium under the terms of its licence, accepts unofficially that it is favoured by planning regulations. Outside designated Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty, towers up to 50ft high are treated as "permitted development". Inside designated areas, planning consent has to be obtained. Where it has been refused, the Department of the Environment has a record of allowing at least two out of three appeals.

One of the most vociferous campaigns against the masts was in the Stour Valley, immortalised by John Constable, overlooking the north Essex village of Dedham. In 1996 three masts up to 70ft were proposed on high ground in this Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty which protesters claimed would make the landscape that inspired the *Haywain* look like a pincushion.

Protesters fought off the towers sought by Mercury, Cellnet and Orange, but 18 months ago John Prescott, the Deputy Prime Minister, overruled the local council and permitted a 90ft shared tower on the edge of the area.

□ A planning inspector has rejected a proposal for a mast disguised as a tree at a beauty spot because it would keep its leaves in winter. Mercury Personal Communications applied for an 80ft mast at Huish Woods, near Taunton, Somerset, that would tower 20ft above surrounding trees.

The tiny new microchip has many applications

the need for thousands of boxes to cover the country. "I can't imagine mobile phone companies paying for these boxes to be set a kilometre apart all over the countryside," he admitted. "But I am sure they would be very interested in our research." Dr Iezekiel said there were many applications for the chip, which had taken two years to complete.

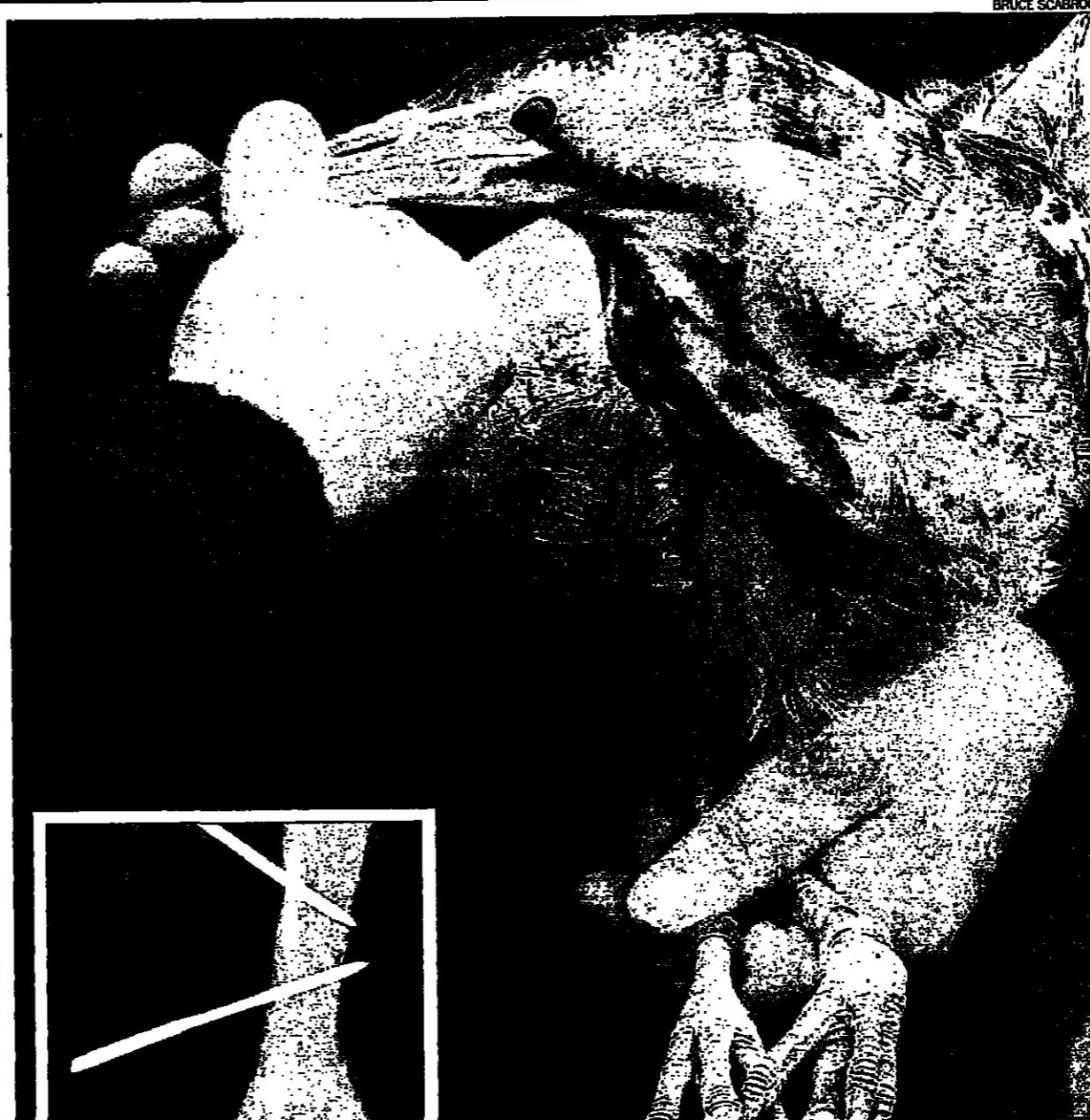
A spokesman for Vodafone, which has 4,500 transmitters, said: "We would be very interested in their research, which sounds as though it could revolutionise the industry."

By the end of this year Britain will have 13,000 relay towers. Henry Oliver, the Council for the Protection of Rural England planning officer, said: "On the face of it, technology which would replace masts

would be very welcome. For years we have suffered the consequences of a planning system biased in favour of telecommunications companies.

"They should take their corporate responsibilities seriously and this development may mean it is easier for them to

BRUCE SOLBROOK



The bittern, fit after its leg operation, is checked before being freed

## Bittern's lucky landfall

WHEN one of Britain's rarest birds broke its leg it could not have chosen a better refuge. The bittern, a species usually found only in East Anglia, made a painful touchdown at the Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust reserve at Slimbridge, Gloucestershire.

The bird's arrival on March 21 caused a flurry of excitement. Reserve staff immediately began trying to catch the shy 30-inch member of the heron family, but even with a broken leg it was elusive and could not be netted until a week later. Then began the job of feeding the bittern to

ensure it was fit enough for an operation on its broken leg.

On April 1, Neil Forbes, a vet from Stroud, Gloucestershire, performed an operation to pin the fracture. Last week the pins were removed and yesterday the bittern was released back into the wild.

Clare Warner, of the trust, said: "We like to think he chose to land here because he knew he would get the best possible care. It is good to see him looking so well now."

The species has been in decline in this country since the 1950s.

## Executive lifestyles ruining the rural idyll

BY RUSSELL JENKINS

THE middle-class aspiration to escape the suburbs for a detached home in an out-of-town "executive" estate is helping to destroy the countryside, a new report claims.

Once settled in the country, residents are dependent on the car to travel to work in the city and for the simplest journey to the nearest shopping centre or leisure park.

The Council for the Protection of Rural England says that the Government, despite its good intentions, is still encouraging developments that fuel congestion. Its report, *Sprawl Patrol*, concludes that too many greenfield sites that are impossible to get to without a car are being developed.

The result is a general impoverishment of the countryside. The distinctive character of rural England is also being supplanted by a bland suburban landscape.

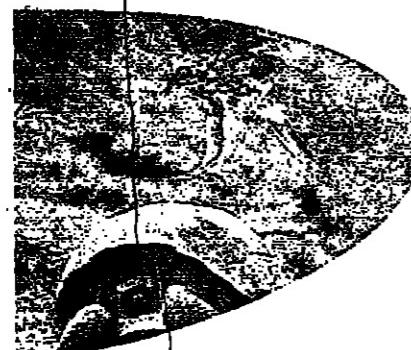
Lifestyles governed by the shopping centre, business or leisure park mean people in the country are driving greater distances daily, causing traffic noise and pollution to be just as great a countryside issue as they are in towns and cities, the council says.

Lilli Matson, its head of transport, said: "Out-of-town development has fuelled a 40 per cent increase in the length of car journeys in just ten years. The countryside has borne the brunt of the impact and traffic on rural roads has increased at three times the rate of urban areas."

She added: "These trends are set to continue unless local and national governments get tough on the causes of sprawl and rising traffic."

The report highlights problem developments. In Newcastle, for example, the city council is proposing a green belt site of 2,500 "executive" homes and an 80-hectare business park that will generate more than 23,000 daily round trips by road.

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# Judge in dock as joke falls flat

An after-dinner quip aimed at political correctness upset many who heard it, reports Frances Gibb

THE Lord Chancellor is investigating reports of an after-dinner speech at which a judge was heckled and jeered after cracking a joke against political correctness.

Judge Graham Boal, QC, once chief prosecutor at the Old Bailey and now a judge there, was speaking to several hundred judges and barristers at the annual dinner of the Criminal Bar Association. He told a joke about a white homosexual barrister who has been severely injured in a accident and wakes up in hospital to be told that various parts of his body have been replaced: he now has the breasts of a lesbian, the back-

side of a homosexual and a large black penis. "Not to worry," the man is told, "this is just the kind of barrister that is much wanted by the authorities who choose QCs and judges."

One barrister who was at the dinner said: "What a fool. But you know what it is like telling after-dinner jokes — he just went too far." The joke, added the barrister, was enjoyed by some, but went down badly among others.

"The CBA is a very sensitive organisation and we are a broad church, so people will be offended by such remarks."

Yesterday a spokesman for the Lord Chancellor's Depart-

ment said: "Obviously the Lord Chancellor will want to find out the facts of the situation before he does anything else."

Judge Boal, 55, was sitting at the Old Bailey and was not making any comment.

He was a leading criminal

silk who took all the top cases

at the Old Bailey before he

was made a circuit judge in

1996. He was vice-chairman of

the Criminal Bar Association

in 1991-93.

He was counsel for the Director of Public Prosecutions in 1991, while the DPP announced that the Crown

would no longer seek to uphold the convictions of the Birmingham Six. In March

last year, when jailing six teenagers who killed a youth after tracking him down and setting upon him like wild animals, he said: "This was Lynch law of a kind that will not be tolerated on the streets of our

cities." He lists his interests as theatre, golf and cricket.

Lincoln Crawford, who chairs the Bar's race relations committee, said that the matter would be raised at the committee's next meeting and, he hoped, taken up with the Lord Chancellor.

"It is absolutely dreadful. If this report is correct, it causes me deep concern. The Lord Chancellor has invested a huge amount of money in racial awareness and gender training for all judges — so for someone so senior to make these comments is very damaging."

Laura Cox, QC, who chairs the Bar's sex discrimination committee, said: "If this is true, then it is very, very regrettable. If a judge makes that kind of joke on this sort of occasion before a mixed-gender, mixed-race audience with lots of

young practitioners, then recent appointees to the judiciary and to silk who are from the ethnic minorities, or are women or gays, are going to feel very undermined."

Stephen Soley, QC, who chairs the Bar's human rights committee, said that such comments deterred many young ethnic-minority barristers from attending establishment gatherings of the profession, and damaged the image of the judiciary. "It is hugely disappointing that, in this day and age, there are senior judges who still think along these lines. I would have thought they had been put to grass decades ago."

He added that there were many liberal judges who did not think that way, but such remarks were damaging to the group as a whole.



Judge Boal: accused of damaging profession

ADRIAN SHERRATT

## Value of caring brought home by globetrotter

By ALEXANDRA FREAN, SOCIAL AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

A FORMER Harlem Globetrotters player, who bought a basketball team after losing up his training fees, joined the Prince of Wales yesterday to encourage businesses to do more to help deprived communities.

Mannie Jackson said that nurturing and supporting community organisations was an effective way to create markets for goods and services and to improve a company's public image.

At the 12th annual Community Enterprise Award, run by the Prince's charity Business in the Community, Mr Jackson presented him with Globetrotters vests for Prince William and Harry.

Prince Charles said his sons would have to be "genetically modified" to make them tall enough to fit the vests.

Mr Jackson, 59, who was born in poverty in a railway boxcar in Missouri, rose to become director of four companies and was the first black American to own a major international sports and entertainment organization. He said that the idea of running a business without strong

community involvement was "unthinkable".

"My experience as someone who was born in a boxcar was that if I had not seen another way of life and if someone had not taken the time to help me out, I would still be rattling around in the boxcar," he said.

The awards, sponsored by The Times and NatWest, honour community entrepreneurs who have created organisations to improve the social and economic circumstances of local people.

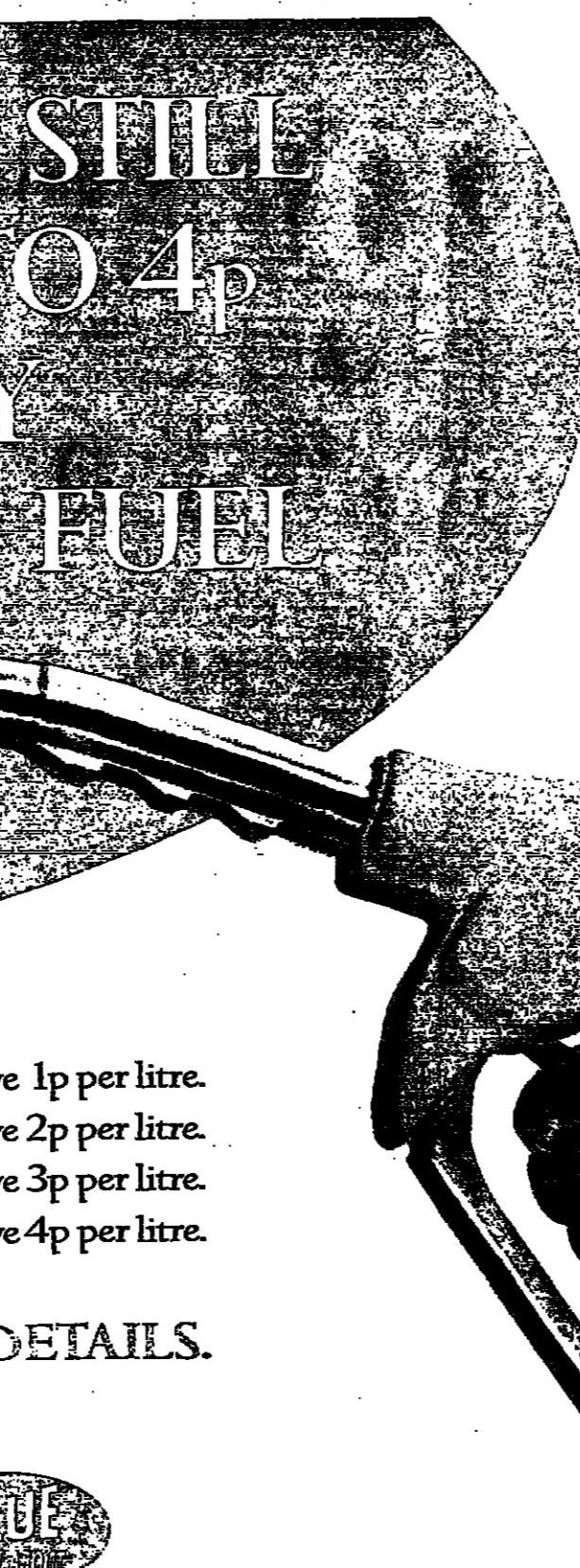
The Charles Douglas-Hamilton Award for a large project was won by Anifur Waunfawr, a charity in Bryn Pistyl, Gwynedd, which helps people with learning disabilities to find jobs.

The award for a small scheme went to Recycling in Ottery, in Ottery St Mary, Devon. The re-use and recycling centre is financed mainly through sales of aluminium and steel cans, paper, textiles, glass, furniture and tools.

The winners received £1,000 and will travel to the United States to learn about the community enterprise movement there.



The Prince said his sons would have to be genetically modified to fit the vests given by Mannie Jackson, left



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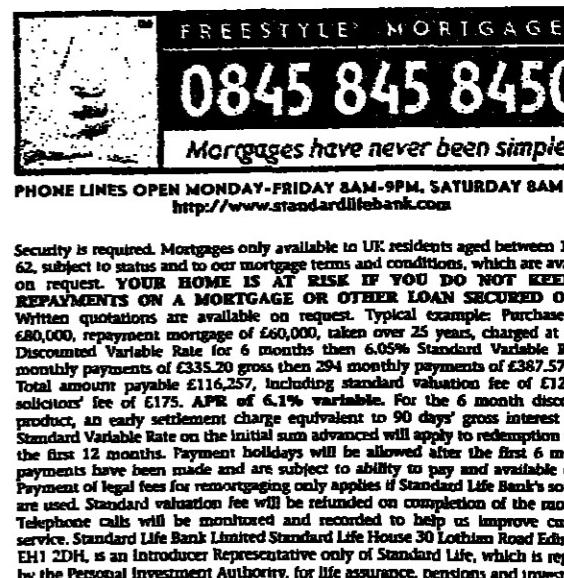
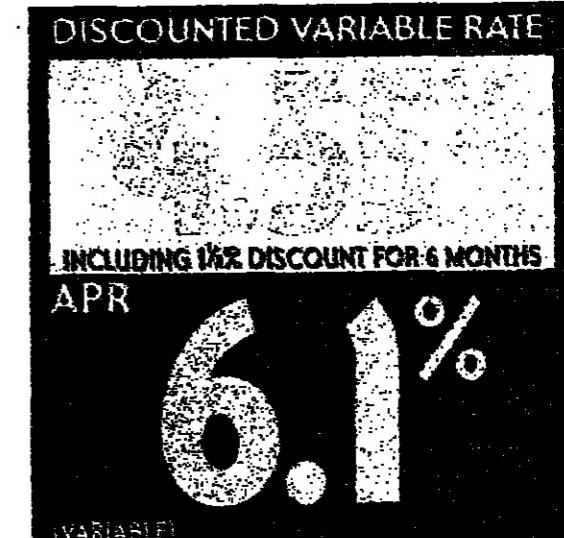
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## Three-inch Ming cup fetches £2.3m

A CHINESE porcelain chicken cup, a rare example of imperial porcelain only 8.2cms (3.2in) high, sold for £239,460 at Sotheby's in



The 15th century cup

Hong Kong yesterday, setting a new world record for Chinese porcelain (John Shaw writes). The cup, from the Chenghua period of the Ming Dynasty (1404-1424), was bought by a London dealer.

The Chenghua period lasted just over ten years and marked pieces are rare. They are known as chicken cups because they are decorated with cockerels, hens and chickens.

Yesterday's price topped a record set on Monday at a Christie's auction in Hong Kong when a buyer paid £1.4 million for a Qing Dynasty porcelain cup from the Yongzheng period (1723-1735).

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مكتبة الأصل

NEWS 13

# Clinton calls for gun controls

President wants parents brought to book for their children's crimes, reports Ian Brodie in Washington

PRESIDENT Clinton yesterday proposed bringing criminal charges against the parents of children who commit gun crimes. The idea was among several gun control measures that he sent to Congress, where their chances of becoming law appeared bleak.

Both Democratic and Republican leaders questioned the need for more anti-gun legislation, despite growing sentiment for reforms across America after last week's school massacre in Denver.

Mr Clinton's proposal would make it a felony for parents to "knowingly or recklessly allow a child an unlawful access to a gun that is later used to cause death or injury".

After the Denver shootings, Sheriff John Stone said that a sawn-off shotgun barrel and equipment for bomb-making were found in plain sight in the bedroom of Eric Harris, 18, who went on the rampage at Columbine High School with Dylan Klebold, 17. The pair killed 13 people before shooting themselves.

"Parents should be held accountable for their kids' actions," Mr Stone said. His view is widely held, but authorities concede that there is no evidence that the parents were in any way involved in the crime. Lawyers said that Mr Clinton's proposal could set a legal standard of parental liability that would be difficult to prove in court.

Mr Clinton also wants to re-

quire background checks on all buyers of explosives, including dynamite, blasting caps and the black powder used in pipe bombs such as those made by Harris and Klebold.

Inexplicably, present laws prohibit the sale of explosive ingredients to felons, fugitives and stalkers, but do not require any checks that would show whether a buyer was qualified on such grounds.

Another loophole that Mr Clinton seeks to close is the burgeoning sale of guns by unlicensed dealers at gun shows where no background checks are required. Police in Colorado suspect that at least one of the weapons used last week was sold at a gun show to an 18-year-old girl who turned it over to the gunmen.

A government study of more than 300 gun shows found that nearly half the transactions involved criminals and a third of weapons sold were later used in serious crimes.

Among Mr Clinton's other proposals are:

- Mandatory child-safe locks on all guns sold;
- A lifetime ban on all gun ownership for people who commit violent crimes as juveniles;
- A ban on importing ammunition clips holding more than ten rounds.

The President's list seems eminently sensible, if tepid by British standards, but he has learnt to be cautious about gun control. After he forced a ban on assault weapons



How Kal, the Baltimore Sun's cartoonist, views the prevailing attitude to tighter gun control in America

through Congress in 1994, his fellow Democrats promptly lost control of the House. The National Rifle Association had responded to those who voted for the ban with a barrage of negative advertising in their constituencies. In Mr Clinton's view, the campaign cost 20 Democrats their seats. Although stemming the

availability of guns would seem an obvious place to start, Tom Daschle, the leader of the Senate Democrats, yesterday cited the Internet, the media and lack of attention being paid to students as other issues that should be studied to solve "an increasingly serious societal problem". He added: "I'm not sure gun legislation is

what we need." Similarly, Trent Lott, leader of the Senate's Republican majority, and Dennis Hastert, Republican Speaker of the House, called for a "national conversation" on youth and culture to focus on responses other than gun control.

Not everyone agreed. Ardent

reformers on Capitol Hill ar-  
gued that a growing number of voters want Washington to follow the lead of those cities and states where curbs on guns, and lawsuits holding gun manufacturers responsible for mayhem on the streets, are slowly but steadily gaining ground.

Letters, page 21

## Basinger drawn into animal row



New York: Kim Basinger's outspoken support for animal welfare is being called into question by the use of circus elephants and a drugged dog in her latest film *James Bond* writes.

The actress, Hollywood's leading animal rights campaigner, has just finished shooting *I Dreamed of Africa* in which she plays the Italian conservationist Kuki Gallman. Producers say the film is a tribute to a woman who has devoted her life to protecting Africa's wildlife. But during the shoot in South Africa, Basinger, who has fought to ban elephants from circuses in America, was said to be surrounded by trained elephants and lions from the local Brian's Circus.

"I did think it was strange that an animal rights activist, who feels so strongly about the use of trained animals, would agree to do this movie in the first place," Jim Stock-

## Disney in claims of bonus plot

Los Angeles: One of Hollywood's most feared negotiators has launched a personal attack on the head of the Walt Disney Company, accusing him of underhand plotting to avoid paying a huge bonus (Giles Whittell writes).

The men agreed to have a retired judge arbitrate their dispute in a law firm's conference room. Jeffrey Katzenberg, now a mogul in his own right at the Dreamworks studio, claims that his unpaid bonus from ten years as head of production at the studio is \$250 million (£153 million).

Mr Katzenberg's lawyer accused the Disney chairman, Michael Eisner, of authorising a secret "Project Snowball" to deny him his due. Mr Katzenberg's contract promised him 2 per cent of revenues from 700 films made during his tenure, including the \$800 million hit, *The Lion King*.

Business report, page 26

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BALKANS WAR: ON THE FRONT LINE

# Serb military hit by fuel rationing

ALL Yugoslav units in Kosovo have introduced emergency measures to preserve their remaining fuel stocks, after the Nato decision to enforce an oil embargo and to stop supplies reaching the Montenegrin port of Bar.

With an agreed European Union oil embargo also affecting Hungary, Romania and Bulgaria — thus cutting off all legal supplies by land — the Yugoslav military has had to take immediate steps to cut back on the use of fuel throughout Kosovo, underlining the importance Bar was playing in Belgrade's calculations. Ten tankers a day have been unloading oil there.

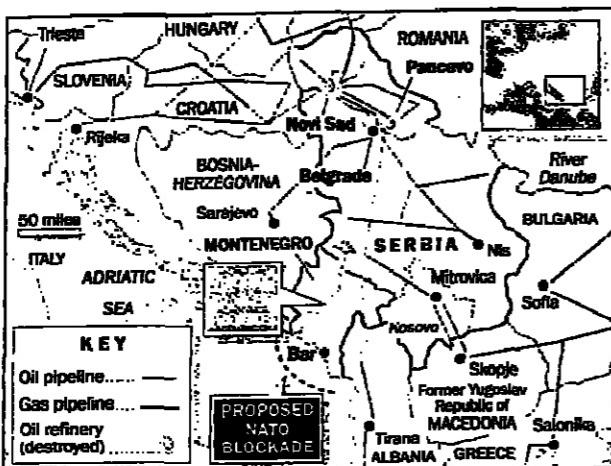
According to Nato intelligence, combined civilian and military oil consumption in the whole of Yugoslavia is now restricted to 32,000 barrels per day. The normal requirement is estimated at 60,000 barrels per day.

Although the Yugoslav Army is not engaged in operations in Kosovo that require much use of fuel — most of its tanks are being used as static artillery — the imminent clampdown on fuel shipments to Bar is expected to impose serious problems for Belgrade's tactics in Kosovo.

Western monitoring of the oil export market has not produced any evidence of frantic orders from Belgrade for re-

**Belgrade is cutting consumption in readiness for a blockade, writes**

**Michael Evans, Defence Editor**



fined oil and petrol. But a close watch is being kept so that the Nato warships in the Adriatic taking part in the oil embargo can be tipped off about tankers heading to Bar.

Counter-measures by the Serbs are limited. Although there are other ports in Montenegro, Bar is the only one with the capacity to deal with large oil shipments.

Belgrade has not yet ordered its forces to seize control of the Bar port facilities, although Nato recognises that

this is a possibility, which could lead to new tensions between Serbia and Montenegro. The other potential for civil war would be if Serb forces tried to seize Montenegro's oil stocks.

The problem for Belgrade is that even if oil supplies get through Nato's proposed "visit and search" monitoring, fuel tankers driving along the road from Bar to Serbia will provide easy pickings for Nato bombers. The route has 37 tunnels and numerous hairpin

bends, forcing heavy lorries to travel at about 2mph. As yet, there is no sign of surface-to-air missile batteries being moved in to defend the road.

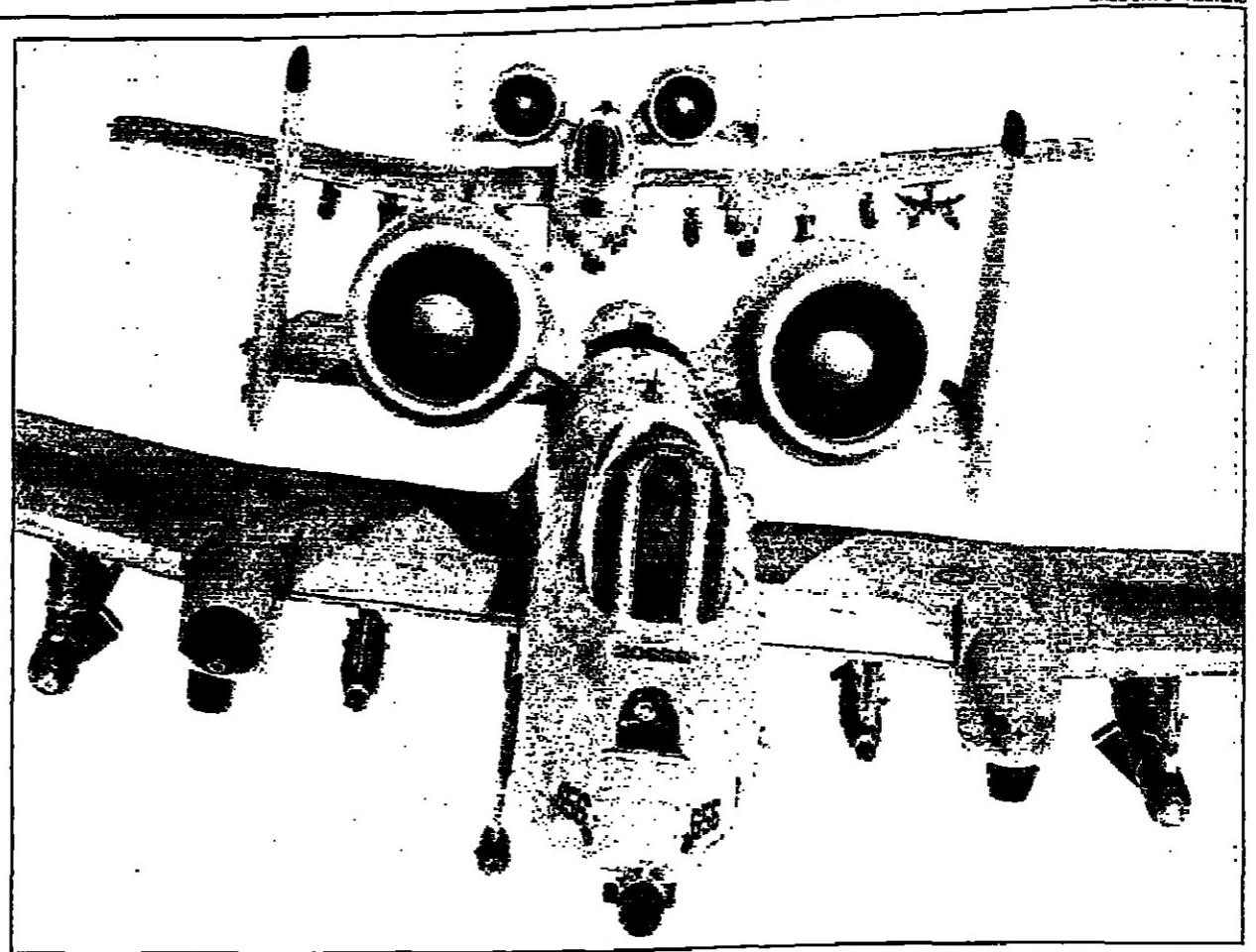
The Serbs have shore-based Russian Styx missiles along the Montenegrin coast, but they will not be in a position to threaten Nato warships. The blockade will be enforced well out to sea and not around the port of Bar. The Yugoslav Navy also has four submarines, but only one could be described as operational.

Nato is aware that the eastern route of the Danube could still be used for barges taking smuggled oil supplies to Serbia, but shipments by this method would never make up for the loss of Bar as an entry point for fuel.

The pipeline running from Croatia through Hungary to the two Yugoslav oil refineries at Pancevo and Novi Sad has also been shut off. As the refineries have been destroyed by airstrikes, Belgrade's requirement now is for refined oil and petrol products.

Although it is unlikely that the US Congress will be asked to pass legislation banning oil exports to Yugoslavia, American petrochemical companies are unlikely to sell oil once the military action begins.

Simon Jenkins, page 20  
Leading article, page 21



Fearsome US Warthogs fly a combat mission. Warthogs were seen in action from the Albanian border yesterday

## Harriers dodge heavy-calibre flak on raid

By JOHN PHILLIPS IN GIOIA DEL COLLE  
AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF

RAF Harrier jump jets came under heavy-calibre anti-aircraft fire for the first time yesterday, but carried out a cluster bomb attack on a military storage area in Kosovo, the RAF said.

The pilots from No 1 Fighter Squadron based in southern Italy dodged through the flak bursting as close as

200 yards away during the raid near Pristina on a virtually cloudless day, an RAF spokesman, Group Captain Glenn Edge, said. He estimated that the shells fired at the Harriers were of 20mm to 40mm calibre. "It was the kosher gear. It wasn't one man lying on his back firing his Kalashnikov."

At least two US A10 "Warthog" tank-killing jets circled the skies over Kosovo yesterday in action against Serb forces,

in sight of the Albanian border, and several explosions were heard from the Morini border post, 12 miles northeast of the northern Albanian town of Kukes.

Yesterday the vaunted fleet of 24 Apache attack helicopters was reduced without Serb forces firing a shot when one crashed in a mountain area northeast of Tirana airport. The two pilots were said to be "in good condition".

## Kosovo boy took British doctors to mass grave

FROM STEPHEN FARRELL IN STENKOVEC

A BRITISH doctor was shown a mass grave in Kosovo by a child who lost all 22 members of his family in a massacre by Serbs last year. Dr Mark Twite, 30, who is working at a refugee camp in the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, said yesterday that he and Dr Ann Jones, now working in Albania, had been shown the burial site last September.

The account will ultimately be passed to war crimes investigators, but the doctors have so far refused to identify the town or the five-year-old because he is believed to be still in Kosovo and therefore at risk.

Dr Twite, a paediatric registrar from the Royal Hospital for Sick Children, Edinburgh, is experienced in working with street children abroad. When the boy was asked where his family were killed, he led them to the graves, which had been dug by friends. Dr Twite said: "His entire family was massacred — shot. He is the sole survivor; he ran away. We think he is still in Kosovo."

"A lot of war crimes have been documented. I can tell you about endless children who have lost family members and children who have witnessed massacres and horrific things happening. I have

no reason to doubt them, not when they can take you to see the graves of their family."

Now safely out of Kosovo where, he says, a common Serb tactic was to poison wells by throwing dead animals into them, Dr Twite faces medical challenges with the threat of cholera and disease in the overcrowded Macedonian camps. Unicef has begun a programme to vaccinate 8,900 children under the age of five in the camps against infectious diseases such as polio and measles.

Lack of space to expand the refugee camps means sanitation could become a serious problem. "Cholera is not far away and it would decimate the camps, especially with summer coming."

The United Nations refugee agency was trying last night to find room for 3,500 Kosovars who arrived at the border when there is little space in the transit camps.

## Tempers flare in teeming camps

FROM RICHARD OWEN  
IN TIRANA

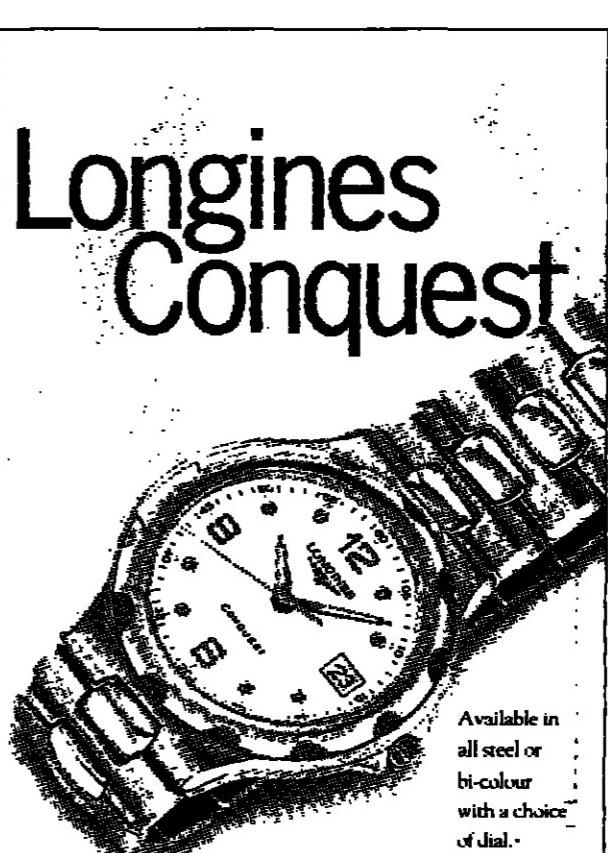
AS MORE of the 350,000 Kosovar refugees in Albania are moved away from the border for fear of Serb shelling, discipline is beginning to break down in some of the over-crowded inland refugee camps, with reports of fights between desperate refugees and local Albanians accused of stealing aid supplies.

The Albanian Government said the aid agencies, especially the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, were "mishandling" the crisis. "If we had relied on UNHCR alone, there would have been famine and chaos in Albania by now," Pandeli Majko, the Prime Minister, said. He said "disaster" had been averted only because Western governments had sent troops to help in protecting relief supplies.

But Ariane Quentier, of UNHCR here, said that it could "not work miracles ... We are working with the Albanian authorities as best we can. But we only provide tents, food and medicines. We cannot act as a police force."

Refugees in Tirana said that there was "never much love lost" between Kosovo Albanians and the people of Albania proper. "Kosovo Albanians are better educated," one said. "The Albanians have given us refuge, but many resent our presence."

But others blamed the "boredom factor". Tahir Povataj, 60, said: "We have football matches, but it's not enough to absorb the energies of cooped-up young men."



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## Media tower hit again

Nato bombers yesterday attacked television transmitters in Belgrade for the second time (Michael Evans, Defence Editor, writes). Witnesses in Belgrade said that, after a Nato bomber flew over the city, an explosion destroyed the television and radio antennae on top of the 23-storey building. Nato said its intelligence revealed that the station was doubling as a message system for Serb forces in Kosovo after the damage to Belgrade's military command-and-control network following weeks of Nato bombing.

## US sends in 'citizens'

Washington: America ordered its "citizen soldiers" into the Kosovo conflict for the first time, with the mobilisation of up to 33,000 military reservists (Ben Macintyre writes). The initial call-up will summon at least 2,000 reserve Air Force personnel to fly and maintain 30 extra refuelling aircraft deployed this week. They are expected to leave for Europe next week.

## British land in Greece

Salonika: British forces unloaded military vehicles — and hundreds of British troops arrived by air — in this port city in northern Greece to reinforce Nato troops stationed in Macedonia. The military vehicles, including reconnaissance vehicles, arrived on board the *Sea Centaur*, which was also carrying 30 containers of military equipment (AP)

## Hungary to take tankers

Budapest: János Szabó, the Hungarian Defence Minister, said that Nato would base 20 airborne tankers in his country to refuel warplanes in the air. "Now Yugoslavia is surrounded 360 degrees and cannot know from what direction an attack will come," he told a news conference. He said there had been no official request for warplanes to be stationed. (Reuters)

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# Russia wooed with role for international force

By MICHAEL EVANS,  
DEFENCE EDITOR,  
AND TOM WALKER

BRITAIN has signalled that it will approve a United Nations Security Council resolution for an international force for Kosovo which makes no reference to Nato. The concession, which is likely to be supported by other alliance governments, is part of a new drive to find a form of words that will be acceptable to Russia.

Moscow is being relied upon to put pressure on Belgrade to back down and meet Nato's five demands, which include the presence of a military force to oversee the return of Albanian refugees.

Foreign Office sources said yesterday that Britain now accepted that any future Security Council resolution covering a peace force for Kosovo could not emphasise the role to be played by Nato if Russia was to give its official backing.

That concession, however, did not change the view, approved by all alliance governments, that the force for Kosovo should still be led by Nato and that Nato troops should form its core.

The British move has underlined the diplomatic efforts now under way to bring the Russians into the forefront. Although the airstrikes will continue, Moscow will be encouraged to play a bigger role in dealing with Belgrade on the diplomatic side.

After the Dayton Peace Accords were signed in December 1995, bringing the Bosnian war to an end, the Security Council approved a resolution which also made no direct reference to Nato, and Russia agreed to contribute troops to the peace implementation force (Ifor). Russian soldiers were deployed to the north of Bosnia in the American-commanded section, and it was agreed that they would come under American, rather than Nato, control.

However, the Dayton Accords had a military annex which specifically named Nato, although the Security Council resolution 1031 referred to "the organisation" in



Vuk Draskovic, Belgrade's Deputy Prime Minister, addresses the press yesterday

the annex without naming it. Whether such word games will meet the approval of the Russians this time is unclear. Moscow will be in no doubt that Nato is determined to lead the force into Kosovo, so, too, will President Milosevic.

William Cohen, the US Defence Secretary, spelt that out

yesterday when he said: "It must be an armed, international peacekeeping force, and we believe it must be led by Nato."

Yesterday Strobe Talbot, the US Deputy Secretary of State, who was in Moscow to discuss the issue of a multinational force for Kosovo with

senior Russian officials, held intensive talks without any apparent breakthrough.

Viktor Chernomyrdin, the former Russian Prime Minister, who is heading Russia's peace efforts, repeated Moscow's position that the airstrikes had to stop to clear the way for talks with Belgrade.

As a reminder that Nato has no intention of stopping the bombing, General Wesley Clark, the Supreme Allied Commander, gave a warning yesterday that the air raids carried out so far, since March 24, were "only a fraction" of what was to come over the next few weeks.

Mr Talbot said that the talks in Moscow went well, but gave no details. Apart from Mr Chernomyrdin, he also met Igor Ivanov, the Foreign Minister, and spoke on the telephone to Yevgeni Primakov, the Prime Minister.

Although the main focus is now on the Russians to bring pressure to bear on Belgrade, the Foreign Office sources said that if Kofi Annan, the UN Secretary-General, decided to become more involved personally, the Government would not stand in his way. "We feel this is a judgment that Mr Annan has to make, but we would certainly not object if he decided to go to Belgrade," one source said.

Mr Annan is due to visit Russia on Thursday and will meet Mr Chernomyrdin and other Russian officials.

Vuk Draskovic, Yugoslavia's Deputy Prime Minister, repeated yesterday his belief that a UN peace force was the way ahead for Kosovo.

His pro-Western leanings were met with a tirade of abuse from the Serbian Radical Party, which dubbed the former dissident novelist a traitor.

Mr Draskovic admitted that he had not talked to Mr Milosevic about the UN force, but he claimed that the Yugoslav leader had discussed the idea with Mr Chernomyrdin last week, although the state media had not carried the news.

Mr Draskovic repeated that he personally did not wish to see Nato troops in a UN force for Kosovo, but he said that Yugoslavia should abide by the decisions of the UN Security Council.

He said: "I think President Milosevic is ready, and must be ready, to accept a Security Council resolution. They will decide the composition of the force."

## 'Danger man' declares war on Schröder

Oskar Lafontaine is exploiting anger over Nato, writes Roger Boyes

probable breaking point for the Government. Members of the Green Party are furious with the role of Herr Fischer — in backing a war against President Milosevic. Diplomats expect a Serbian peace initiative just before the congress as a tactical ploy to bring down the German Government. But the protesters have seen their influence dwindle in the Green Party and the most likely outcome of the May 13 congress is that Herr Fischer will be mandated to try harder to find a diplomatic solution in the Balkans.

Opponents of the war may find a champion in Herr Lafontaine. He is using his native Saarland as a political base. At the weekend he appeared on the podium of the Saarland Social Democratic Party and was given thunderous applause.

The May Day speech is only the first part of the planned comeback. Herr Lafontaine has accepted invitations to make other speeches, including at a Franco-German meeting on May 14, the day after the Green congress.

Herr Schröder's dream of an Oskar-free republic is crumbling quickly. No matter that the most dangerous man in Europe now lives in Belgrade rather than Saarbrücken; the Chancellor's advisers are trying to unearth an official post to neutralise the resolute politician. The only suitable position would be as Ambassador to Israel, but friends say Herr Lafontaine will not be lured into exile abroad.

## Serbs use toxic gas, say mercenaries

Volunteers for  
Kosovo face a  
grim death,  
writes Michael  
Binyon

said its assessment of the danger was low.

But a spokesman said it had received reports that the Serbs might be using blistering agents. A refugee in Albania was being treated for blisters on the hands and feet. "We are taking this very seriously and working hard to establish the facts," the spokesman said.

General Sir Charles Guthrie, Chief of the Defence Staff, said yesterday that it was too soon to say whether there was evidence suggesting that the Serbs were using chemical weapons.

Their use is outlawed under the Geneva Convention and the recently signed international treaties banning the use of chemical and biological weapons.

The two British recruits, a

Londoner and a Scot who refused to give their names or be filmed in full light, also revealed that foreign volunteers and mercenaries were arriving from Europe and America at the rate of 200 a day to fight for the KLA. But they gave a warning that those recruited in Britain, as they were, could fall foul of a feud between two factions of the KLA, battling each other for control of the guerrilla army.

The Kosovo Information Centre, which was named by Newsnight as the recruitment centre in London for mercenaries, denied yesterday that it had sent anyone to fight in Kosovo. Isa Zymberi, its director for the past nine years, said that he referred all those offering to fight to the KLA's representative in Britain. "We have had a lot of mercenary offers," he said. "But in principle we never wanted them."

The two British mercenaries told Newsnight that they had been unable to do their job properly as volunteers were being sent to fight the Serbs after only three days training, with rusty weapons and almost no military experience.

BRITONS boost Nato press operation

By ROLAND WATSON, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

BRITISH government influence over Nato's communication strategy strengthened yesterday with the secondment of more civil servants to the alliance's Brussels headquarters.

Alastair Campbell, the Prime Minister's official spokesman, is spending the best part of the week there, with Hilary Cottman, a Downing Street press officer.

Two Scottish Office officials have also been moved to Brussels indefinitely. They join Julian Brainwain, Downing Street's foreign affairs press officer, who is now based full-time in Nato.

This week Mr Campbell will spend his longest stint yet at Nato. Normally he is wedded to Mr Blair's side, so the decision is a measure of the

concern at Nato's failure to get its message across effectively and at its comparatively poorly staffed press operation, headed by Jamie Shea. Mr Campbell was called in earlier this month by Javier Solana, the Nato Secretary-General, to help to co-ordinate that operation. His arrival coincided with Nato's decision to explain fully the bombing of a civilian convoy.

Yesterday Downing Street played down any suggestion of a British Government takeover. "Jamie Shea is still in charge," a spokesman said. "Alastair is the Prime Minister's chief press spokesman and, as you would expect in a conflict of this sort, he is getting involved in the co-ordination of communications."



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# £830m library where you can't find a book

FRENCH academics were in despair yesterday as the country's showcase National Library plumb new depths of absurdity and incompetence.

Writing in *Le Figaro*, three eminent professors denounced the building that was President Mitterrand's most extravagant brainchild as a "sinister farce" that had undermined the edifice of French research.

Their attack came as the French parliament set up an inquiry into an Fr8 billion (£830 million) project that Mitterrand once said would give rise to "the world's biggest and most modern library".

With Parisians joking that, in the two years since its opening, it has turned into the world's biggest fiasco, MPs will report on the series of floods, strikes and fist-fights between frustrated users and bad-tempered staff.

They will also try to explain the extraordinary computer-

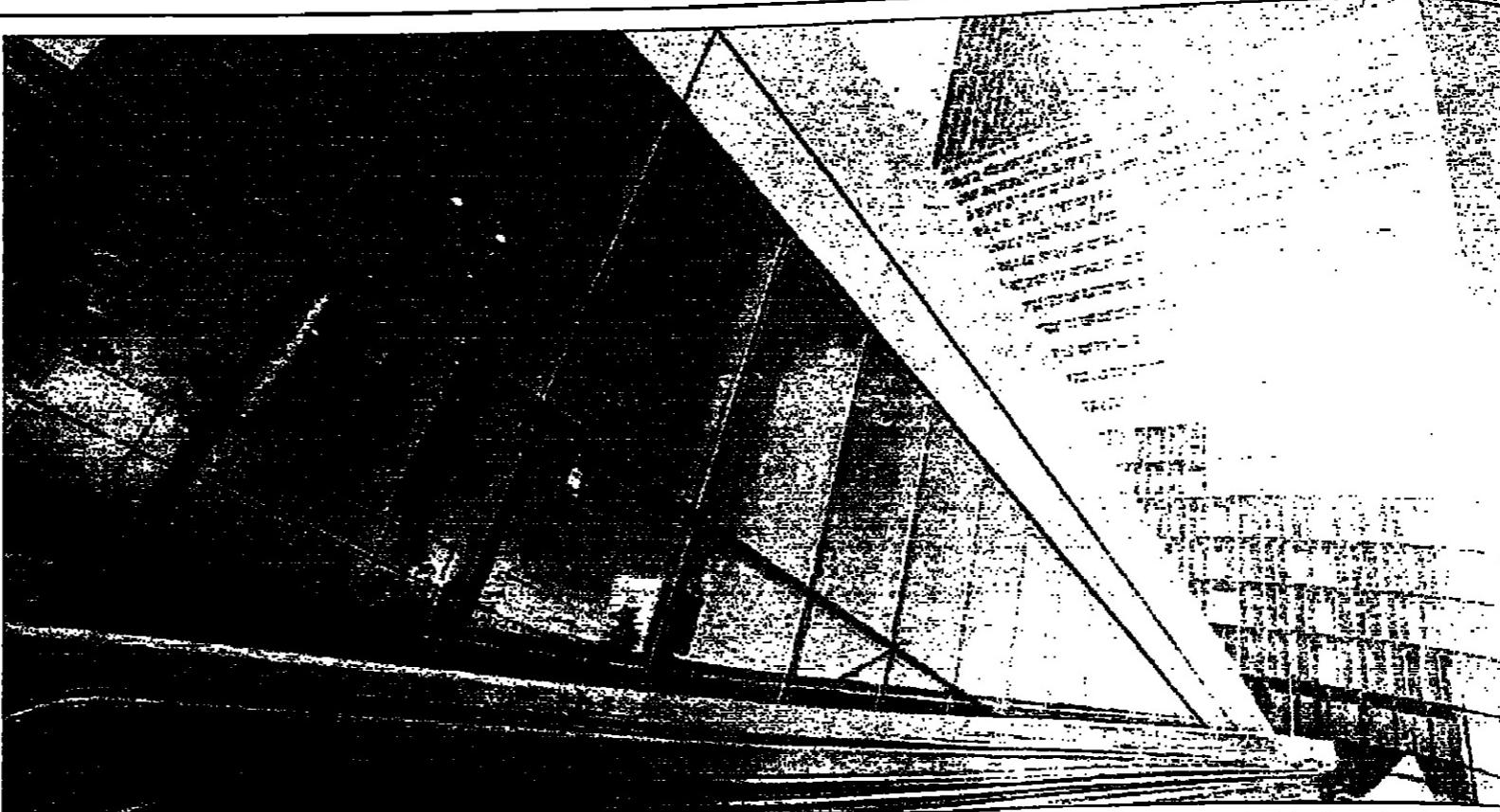
**Grand vision turns to farce,**  
**writes Adam Sage in Paris**

with the information system in search of half a dozen works housed somewhere in the 395ft tower. After 15 minutes surfing on a public computer screen, she had got nowhere. "Non, non, non," she groaned, wringing her hands in a Gallic gesture of dismay.

"It's going to take me at least an hour to track down the books and I've only been able to reserve a reading desk for Friday, so I will have to come back then. It's terrible. No, it's worse than that."

In January, anger at the £42 million computer system exploded as researchers attacked staff, badly injuring a pregnant employee who lost her baby as a result.

The 2,500 staff went on strike for the second time in three months and were persuaded to return only when the management said it would shut the library on Mondays to ensure a stress-free start to



France's National Library has been criticised by academics as a catastrophe because of the complications of its computerised book retrieval system

the week. But that fuelled the fury of academics who said they would have even less chance of finding their books.

Their mood darkened further during the March rains when the library's basement was flooded, causing concern that ancient manuscripts could be in danger. In *Le Figaro*, the three professors,

Michel Crouzet, Marie-Madeleine Fontaine and Anne-Marie Lecong, described the building as being like the *Titanic*. International academics were being driven away because they could not retrieve documents from the library, they said. "Everyone knows that it is no longer worth coming to work in Paris. The situation is a veritable catastrophe."

"This place is completely mad; the worst library I've ever come across," said Stephan Albrecht, 36, a lecturer in the history of art at the University of Tübingen in southern Germany. "It's hard to get the books, and when you do, they are often the wrong ones."

## THE HIGH PRICE OF A FIASCO



President Mitterrand, right, spared no expense in his determination that the £830 million Bibliothèque Nationale de France — François Mitterrand should surpass its British rival at St Pancras in North London. The chairs at reading desks cost £300 each and the lamps were more than £700. The annual running cost is £125 million.



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## Bank link to Nazi gold

THE Central Bank of Argentina may have stashed Nazi gold after the war (Gabriella Gamini writes). Research by an independent commission investigating the country's role as a haven for Nazi war

criminals has found a letter from the Foreign Ministry authorising the bank to accept Nazi gold in 1946. Ignacio Klich, head of the commission, said it was the first tangible evidence of such a link.

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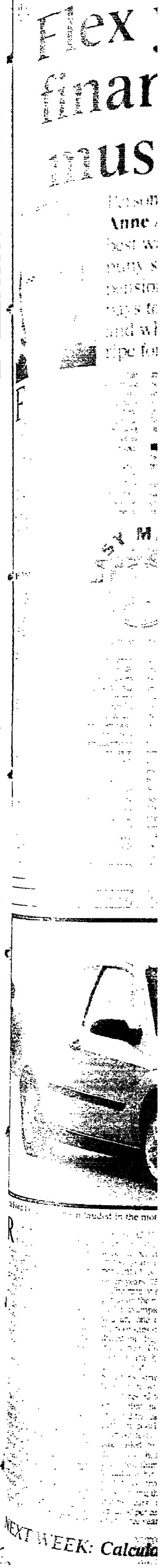
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# Flex your financial muscles



Personal Finance Editor Anne Ashworth on the best ways to improve your puny savings and feeble pension provision; why it pays to buy a used car; and which mutuals are ripe for carpetbagging

Fashion features announcing that we should all be wearing string bikinis this summer will be spurring thousands into diet and exercise programmes. This seasonal fear of exposing flab is not an exclusively female preoccupation. Even men who, for most of the year, believe that their intellect is their strongest suit will be investing in video promising buns of steel.

But some men and women are embarking on a different schedule. They are in training for the financial fitness test. This is the Easy Money get-fit programme, targeting four areas of your finances. All the moves are easier than pulling your belly button in to your spine, part of the Pilates exercise system. (I speak from personal experience.)

**BANKS:** Going into the red without permission, or exceeding your overdraft limit, is aminia at its most expensive. You can expect to pay an interest rate of as much as 20 per cent, plus an extra monthly fee. There may be additional charges, such as £25 for each unpaid cheque.

If you need to borrow in the short term, consider swapping to a low-interest credit card. People's Bank has an introductory rate of 6.9 per cent. The rate at RBS Advanta cards is 5.9 per cent. For longer-term borrowing, a personal loan can be cheaper than an authorised overdraft, where rates of 19 per cent are common. Ask your bank and several of the new names in the sector, such as Prudential's Egg and Tesco, for quotes. You can borrow £5,000 over three years from Tesco's banking division at 11 per cent.

Another way to enrich your bank is to use its rivals' cash machines: some banks charge for this and a fee of £1.50 is typical. Ask your bank where you can withdraw your money for free and speed-walk to these machines. Barclays' customers, for example, can withdraw money without charge only at Bank of Scotland, Lloyds and Royal Bank of Scotland machines.

Internet banking services, on offer now

at Citibank, Lloyds, The Royal Bank of Scotland and, within weeks, at Barclays, are not only for anaraks. You can check your balance, pay bills and change standing orders at almost any hour. There is no fee, apart from the cost of the telephone call to link to the service.

**BILLS:** A moderate amount of exertion should help you to shrink your electricity, gas, insurance and mortgage bills. Little is straightforward in the newly regulated energy market. But you can save either by paying your existing supplier by direct debit, or by changing supplier. For details of these new suppliers see the Which? fact-sheets on the website of Offer, the electricity regulator. According to Which?, a British Gas customer using the average amount of gas will pay £357 if he pays by cheque, £324 if he pays by quarterly direct debit and £312 if he pays by monthly direct debit. Switching to London Electricity, the bills would be £62, £38 and £30 lower respectively.

Most homebuyers arrange building and contents insurance when they take out a mortgage. This is the easiest option, but also often the most expensive as the insurer takes the opportunity to recover the fat commissions it pays to the bank or building society for your custom. Organising cover independently can slice 30 per cent off the premiums.

Instead of ringing round every insurer for a quote (a lengthy but not fat-burning process) you could get an insurance broker to take the strain. John Charcol, the mortgage and insurance broker, asked five insurers what they would quote for a 40-year-old living in Birmingham B5 and needing £35,000-worth of contents cover. The premiums ranged from £296 at Commercial Union to £556 at Royal Sun Alliance.

Easy Money has already emphasised the budget-boosting potential of remortgaging, ie, transferring your loan to a lower-rate deal with your existing lender or a

competitor. But here is one more striking example. A borrower with a £100,000 standard variable rate loan at 6.85 per cent will be paying £570.83 a month. Move to a new loan offer from the Stroud & Swindon Building Society, with a 2 per cent discount until 2001 and a 1 per cent discount until 2004, and your repayment drops to £404.16. There is an arrangement fee of £295.

**PENSIONS:** Age Concern has this week illustrated the inevitability of ageing and the need for pension-saving with computer-generated images of a senescent Chris Evans and Posh Spice. Worse than wrinkles, however, is the prospect of retirement with only the basic state pension of £347 a year.

If your firm offers a pension scheme, you should join to take advantage of such perks as a contribution to your fund from your employer. The self-employed and freelancers can take out personal pension plans today. Or they can wait until the launch of the stakeholder pension, which should be available within two years.

But the sooner you can start saving for retirement, the better. Turning their backs on their dishonourable past, insur-

ance companies are now offering better-value pensions, with lower administration charges. A few independent financial advisers, such as Chartwell, based in Bath, will arrange a pension for a fee.

Tax relief softens the blow of investing in a pension. If you contribute £100, the

Another option is a cash individual savings account (isa), where your interest will be tax-free. Abbey National offers a rate of 1.85 per cent on a balance of £250 in its Action Saver account. The same balance earns 6 per cent in the Abbey Isa. Other cash Isa best buys come from the Nationwide (6.50 per cent) and the Yorkshire (6.25 per cent). Keeping watch on your savings is seen in some circles as a diet aid. Checking on the constantly changing rates of interest will leave you little time to snack.

**SAVINGS:** Bank and building societies are paying puny rates of less than 1 per cent on many of their popular accounts. Egg, Virgin Direct and Scottish Widows Bank are much more generous.

**Contact:** Abbey National sav-

ings 0800 222397; John Charcol 0800 039393;

Chartwell 01225 321700; Clarendon 0800 008800;

Egg 0845 6000292; Lloyd www.lloydbank.co.uk; Nationwide 0800 302010; Offer www.

open.gov.uk/offer/offerm.htm; People's Bank 0500 551055; Royal Bank of Scotland 0800

121121; RBS Advanta 0800 077770; Scottish Wid-

ows Bank 0845 8430829; Stroud & Swindon

0800 371824; Tesco 0845 6006016; Virgin Direct

0845 6101020; Yorkshire BS 01274 395050.

## Where to bag the profit

If the news of the good fortune of savers at the Bradford & Bingley Building Society, who voted for a four-figure windfall on Monday, made you green with envy, it is still possible to get in on the carpetbagging act, but only just.

If you intend to open an account with a possible conversion target, do it quickly. The Bradford & Bingley vote will mean that mutuals will be on their guard, so you can expect more and more of them to impose restrictions on people seeking to open new accounts.

Already opportunities for those investors seeking windfalls who have not yet opened carpetbagging accounts are few and far between. Of the remaining major building societies, Nationwide, Yorkshire, Britannia, Coventry, Leeds & Holbeck and Newcastle are accepting new members, but they must sign away windfall rights to a charitable foundation when they join. So, for example, anyone who has opened an account at Nationwide since November 3, 1997, would not be entitled to a windfall were the society to convert.

For the new carpetbagger the best bet is Portman Building Society: it has recently removed all restrictions on opening new accounts, while reiterating its "unswerving commitment to mutuality". The only drawback for carpetbaggers is that the minimum balances vary according to how you open your account.

For example, Portman has introduced a mini cash individual savings account (isa), which pays 6.55 per cent on £10 for those who open their accounts through a branch. However, the minimum deposit for people opening their accounts by post is £1,000. The instant access account pays 4.25 per cent on balances of £100 for locals, and on balances of £1,000 for customers opening accounts by post.

It has become more difficult, however, to force a conversion at Portman. On April 15 the society's existing savers, the members, voted to increase the majority needed for a conversion resolution to be passed to 75 per cent of savers and 50 per cent of borrowers.

The Skipton and the Chelsea are much less carpetbagger-friendly. Skipton has a minimum balance on all accounts of £2,000, while Chelsea, one of the most vociferous supporters of the mutuality movement, pays punitively low rates of interest on some accounts. Its instant access account, for example, pays a paltry 0.5 per cent annually.

For those carpetbaggers who opened accounts before restrictions came in, the most competitive rates across the board are from Yorkshire Building Society. It pays 6.25 per cent on its mini cash Isa, 5.5 per cent on its instant access account and 5.8 per cent on its 30-day notice account. However, the chances of a conversion at Yorkshire, another bastion of the mutual movement, are extremely low.

PAULA HAWKINS



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In training for a fitness test: put in a bit of effort this summer to improve the shape of your finances



### NASTY HABITS



The Ford Focus has been lauded in the motoring press, but don't rush to buy. Prices should plummet in the near future

**R**eading motoring journalists' reviews of the Ford Focus, the long-awaited successor to the Escort, is enough to make one rush straight out and buy one. But don't rush out and buy a new one. The Focus, star of the "Expect more" ad campaign, may deliver more than your average family runaround, but you can also expect more depreciation. Because it was launched just over six months ago, it is still quite a "rare" car, so its price of between £12,000 and £14,000 for a 1.8 is high. Once the Escort goes off the market, thousands of Focuses will flood in and, experts say, their price will plunge.

And the Focus is not alone. "People rarely take it into account, but depreciation dwarfs all the other costs of running a car," says a spokesman for the Automobile Association. The AA estimates that, for a medium-sized car, annual insurance is about £450 and road tax £15. The cost of depreciation

is £2,720. Just driving your car out of the showroom wipes 12 per cent off its value. In two years it loses about 45 per cent of its value, and after seven years, 75 per cent.

The rate of depreciation depends on the make and model. If, for example, you are one of the poor saps seduced into buying a new Citroën Xsara by C la u d i a Schiffer's stripey tease, you will be interested to know that not only did the car perform poorly in crash tests – the front airbag failed to open and the dummy's head (that's the crash-test dummy's head, not Claudia's) hit the dashboard – but also that Citroëns tend to be among the fastest-depreciating cars around, losing about 60 per cent of their value after three years.

A new Astra 1.6 costs £12,000, and one with about

36,000 miles on the clock is £5,160. A new Golf costs £13,975 now and £7,547 after three years, a saving of £6,428.

So if you buy a three-year-old Golf, you will have saved enough to insure the car for four years (fully comprehensive insurance for a 35-year-old Londoner from Direct Line costs about £250 a year) and still have enough left over to buy a three-year-old Toyota RAV4 for those weekend jaunts to the countryside.

Although buying a used car is still a gamble, there are reputable second-hand dealers such as Network Q, which sells used Vauxhalls, that will check the car thoroughly.

Make sure that you have the registration document, MOT certificates if the car is more than three years old, and full details of its service history. If you are suspicious about the mileage, contact the car's previous owners to verify details.

PAULA HAWKINS

NEXT WEEK: Calculating the cost of bringing up children

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# The birds that can count up to seven

Research proves that animals do have mathematical skills, says Sanjida O'Connell

**P**ythagoras thought that numbers symbolised the face of God. If that is the case, some animals could be closer to godliness than many of us suppose. Researchers are increasingly finding that many animals are as skilled at maths as young children.

Dr Miriam Rothschild, the distinguished zoologist, was the first to prove that birds can count when she made a study of cormorants that are trained by fishermen on the banks of the Li-kiang River, in China. The fishermen tie string round the birds' throats so that they cannot swallow the fish they catch. The string is removed to allow the cormorants to eat every seventh fish.

Rothschild says: "Occasionally, the fishermen would lose count of the number of fish caught and say 'Go on' to a cormorant, but the bird would just sit there refusing to dive until the fishermen realised — 'Of course, it's the seventh fish' — and took the string off."

The cormorants were clever enough to understand that it was the seventh fish they were allowed to eat, not the fish they caught on the seventh dive.

More recently, Professor Marc Hauser, of Harvard University, used buckets, a few plums and some aubergines to demonstrate that monkeys can count. Hauser studies a group of wild monkeys on the island of Cayo Santiago, off Puerto Rico, using a technique called PLT (preferential look-

The big question now is: did words or numbers come first?

doll behind the screen, lifted the screen and revealed three dolls. The children stared for longer, as if appropriately surprised that one plus one equals two.

Hauser has also been able to demonstrate that babies of five to eight months can do simple maths. Wynn put one doll, followed by a second

of plums in two buckets. The monkeys consistently went to the bucket containing the most plums. He says: "We found that they are capable of discriminating between four and three, a capacity which one-year-old infants do not have."

Hauser points out that there could well be a survival value in being able to count. Animals are constantly confronted with situations where they have to evaluate the number of animals, or the number of pieces of food," he says. "So it is a natural task for them to be confronted with solving a simple mathematical problem.

The question which has remained open is whether or not they evaluate things in terms of 'more or less', or whether they are counting." Hauser was able to demon-

strate that monkeys were counting. He put one aubergine, followed by another, behind a screen and raised it to reveal one large aubergine that weighed as much as the previous two combined. The amount of aubergine was still the same, but the number was different, and yet the monkeys looked for longer when they saw the huge aubergine.

Monkeys may be smart, but they have their limits — they don't seem to be able to understand two plus two, nor can they distinguish between four and five plums. However, with human tuition, a small number of animals have achieved greater mathematical feats.

Alex, a grey parrot raised by Professor Irene Pepperberg, from the University of Arizona,

has been taught to speak and can count up to six. "Alex's achievement in counting is impressive," says Professor Euan Macphail, a psychologist from York University. "The amount of aubergine was still the same, but the number was different, and yet the monkeys looked for longer when they saw the huge aubergine."

Macphail's criticism is that the creatures are not counting, they are subitising — this is the ability to look at a number of objects and to know how many there are without counting.

Alex, a grey parrot raised by Professor Irene Pepperberg, from the University of Arizona,

would not need to go through systematically counting two, three, four." Macphail adds that our skill at subitising allows us to name only up to eight objects, so one would expect animals, if they were subitising, to understand numbers up to or fewer than eight, too.

He adds: "If we want to see animals' counting abilities as a demonstration of a higher intellectual ability, we have to go beyond counting to something like arithmetic."

A number of chimpanzees in Japan and America have managed to both count up to nine, and do simple arithmetic. Professor Sarah Boysen, from Columbus State University, Ohio, has taught some of her animals to use a touch-screen computer. She shows them a number of objects, usu-

ally sweets, and they point to the correct number on the computer. Two of the chimps, Bobbie and Sheba, can also add up and subtract simple sums and work out fractions, such as half a banana or a quarter of a pear.

These animals' abilities may be impressive, but why are scientists asking whether animals can count? After all, a salmon can't understand pi, but it is still incredibly well equipped for its own lifestyle, and its feats of navigation outshine anything that we can do without the aid of technology.

Comparing animals to a human yardstick invariably means the animals will fail.

Hauser believes that this work is vital because it allows us to determine whether language or maths evolved first.

What these animals are doing, essentially, is counting in "nameless numbers" — they have the concept behind counting, but without the words. Now he and other scientists want to know the extent to which animals make calculations — do they, for example, go through the same kind of thought processes as a human being?

"For instance," he says, "a human finds a piece of chocolate cake in the refrigerator; it's the only piece left, and his room-mate might enjoy a piece, too. He is confronted with two choices: does he tell his room-mate honestly, 'I'd like this piece of chocolate cake', or does he eat it and risk that if he is found with the cake, his room-mate will probably get a little annoyed?"



More than just a bird brain: research among a fishing community in China has shown that trained cormorants such as this can apparently count up to seven.

Watch this space for a timely shower □ Insects' repellent □ Canine care

## Don't miss out on the meteors

LAST November astronomers anxious to see the best meteor shower for 33 years decamped to Asia, where fireworks were predicted. In reality, they would have done better to stay at home. Instead of amazing the people of East Asia, the 1998 Leonids shower produced its most dramatic fireballs over the Atlantic 16 hours earlier.

In a remarkable piece of scientific detection, this unexpected result has been traced back to events that took place more than 600 years ago.

The annual Leonids shower (so-called because the shooting stars appear to originate from the constellation of Leo) is caused by the Earth passing through the orbit of the comet Tempel-Tuttle. This happens every year, but especially brilliant displays occur every 33 years or so, when the comet has passed close to the Sun, releasing more dust particles for Earth to plunge through.

Predicting the timing of such an event is notoriously difficult, but missing the best part of the event by 16 hours was a big error. Now three astronomers — Dr David Asher and Professor Mark Bailey, of Armagh Observatory, and Professor Vacheslav Emelyanenko, of South Ural University in Chelyabinsk, in the Russian Federation — say that we must look back to 1333 for an explanation.

The display that many astronomers missed occurred as Earth passed through an extremely dense, narrow stream of large dust grains and particles, up to several centimetres in diameter. The timing suggested that these particles were in an orbit rather different

from that of the main stream of small grains shed by the comet, and that they left the comet's nucleus many hundreds of years ago.

They calculated the motion of large dust grains ejected from the comet at each of the last 42 occasions when it made its closest approach to the Sun. They identified 1333 as the time when most of the observed particles must have been released. These particles did not spread out in space because of a dynamical process known as resonance, the same process that keeps Saturn's rings in place.

In this case it is the influence of Jupiter which kept the dust cloud intact instead of allowing it to

spread around the entire orbit of the comet.

In the latest issue of *Monthly Notices of the Royal Astronomical Society*, they report that the particles occupy a rather short arc, forming a dense strand of large particles separate from the "normal" strands of small particles, which lie ahead of and behind the comet.

The calculations show that in November 1998 the arc of particles released in 1333 cut right through Earth's orbit, and the calculated time for when this happened matched the observed meteor shower maximum to the hour.

The researchers are not expecting a repeat performance of bright fireballs in November this year. But a strong "normal" display is likely, peaking at about 2am on November 18, because of meteoroids ejected from comet Tempel-Tuttle in 1866, 1899 and 1932 that have not yet had time to disperse around the comet's orbit.



SCIENCE BRIEFING  
Nigel Hawkes

◆



THE invention of agriculture is shared by mankind and the leafcutter ant. These ingenious creatures live on a special fungus that they grow on leaves and fragments of vegetable debris, which they collect and carry back to their nests. Each day they harvest and eat the crop.

But they face the same problem as farmers — other organisms invade their plots and exploit them. Dr Cameron Currie, of the University of Toronto, found that the

## Ants that farm their own food

ants' gardens were often invaded by a virulent fungus called *Escovopsis*, but that it never seemed to gain a foothold.

He found the answer in a white material that all fungus-growing ants carry in a kind of bib under their chins. In *Nature* he reports

that this substance is a bacterium, *Streptomyces*. He guessed that the bacteria produced an antibiotic capable of killing the invading fungi. Experiments in a dish confirmed it. All fungi would grow in the presence of the bacterium except the invasive one.

He concludes that the bacteria must be producing a very specific antibiotic which has yet to be identified. To sustain the symbiotic relationship, the bacteria must be getting something out of the deal, too — probably, he suspects, some form of nourishment.

## Dogs get a dose of their masters' medicine



DOGS IN the Western world are fed better than many people in the Third World. They also get better medical treatment, with drugs originally designed for human patients finding uses for such canine complaints as separation anxiety and cognitive dysfunction syndrome, a doggy form of Alzheimer's disease.

The drug company Novartis has

discovered in trials that clomipramine hydrochloride, an antidepressant used for obsessive-compulsive disorder in human beings, is effective in treating the anxiety that some dogs feel when left alone. The company told *The Scientist* that 14 per cent of the American dog population — seven million dogs — suffer symptoms, so the market is large.

Pfizer, meanwhile, has found that a Parkinson's disease drug, selegiline hydrochloride, is effective in treating CDS, a mental decline

that causes a number of distressing symptoms. About 70 per cent of dogs improved after a month of treatment. Both these drugs have been approved by the Food and Drug Administration in America.

Drugs to stop dogs biting seem an obvious follow-up, but liability claims may put the pharmaceutical companies off. And a really effective treatment for the panic induced in some dogs by fireworks and thunderstorms seems as distant as ever.

INDIA

...and the Indian government has decided to ban the sale of all tobacco products in India. The ban will affect all forms of tobacco, including cigarettes, chewing tobacco, and snuff. The ban is expected to take effect in April 2000.

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# Tony, you're talking globaloney

Globalisation is another moral evasion, says David Selbourne

In 1992, in the wake of the fall of communism, the American thinker Francis Fukuyama proclaimed the "end of the historical process". We were now all liberal democrats, or becoming so. We were in consequence entering a "post-historical period", he argued, in which the great battles of the past, ideological and otherwise, were effectively over.

We came to know soon enough that this thesis, whose vogue was intense but brief, was twaddle. Wars and massacres, a heightened sense of ethnicity, continuing scientific and technological "advances", genetic manipulations, fundamentalist muscle-flexing, ecological changes and all the rest of it have taught us their own lessons. History does not have an "end", in any sense.

Now, a new and equally fashionable thesis is leading us all by the noses: that of "globalisation". It was outlined in all its majesty at the weekend by Tony Blair in Chicago. We live, allegedly, in an essentially new world. It is not, this time, one in which historical evolution has somehow come to an end. Rather, it is one in which the "global" economy, the "global" society, a "global" culture, and "global" citizenship rule the planetary roost. New responsibilities rest on our leaders' shoulders. And new gurus whisper in their ears.

For the ideological father of this thesis, our new Fukuyama, is Professor Anthony Giddens, the Director of the London School of Economics and Mr Blair's favourite intellectual. He has been outlining his theory of globalisation this month as the BBC's Reith lecturer. But the thesis of "globalisation", a mutant form of the "end-of-history" proposition, is, like its predecessor, just twaddle. It is globaloney.

National policy decisions, cultural traditions and social conditions remain the important variables in determining a state's economic fortunes. Governments continue, sometimes with justice, to congratulate themselves for making economic choices that are superior to those of their predecessors or neighbours. States must, nevertheless, always be involved in relations wider than their own bounds. Economic autarky and political insulation from other nations are not options. Indeed, they never have been. But governments continue to defend their nations' interests in particularist ways: in democracies they are sacked by their national electorates if they do not.

But what does the thesis of "globalisation" represent? First, it expresses a strong, even apocalyptic, death-wish for the nation-state and the moral order. The nation-state is regarded as basically out of date, having been superseded by "global" forces that dwarf it and which it cannot control. The moral order — any moral order — has been overtaken or subsumed by the universal cause of human rights and of individual self-emancipation from restraint. The family, and many other "traditional"

social arrangements, are being rendered obsolete under "global" pressures of varying kinds. These institutions are all for the knacker's yard and, so goes the wisdom of the hour, about time too. This is the death-wish.

Secondly, the thesis of "globalisation" provides a cover, or legitimisation, for the failings of individual states to tackle their manifold social, economic, ethical and environmental problems. It is highly convenient for some politicians to feel, and to be told, that these problems are beyond their own powers to solve. Thus, if climatic "warming" is "global", as it is, but the individual nation-state is held to be powerless on its own to do anything about it — say, by reducing its emissions of pollutants and noxious gases — the burden of obligation can be transposed on to the back of a "global" organisation. By this means practical problem-solving may be postponed sine die. But this is merely another form of moral evasion, in which the global dimension provides a near-perfect alibi for the transference of moral responsibility, and even for entire inaction.

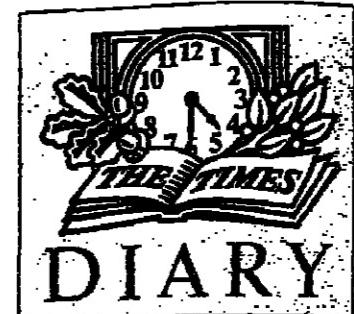
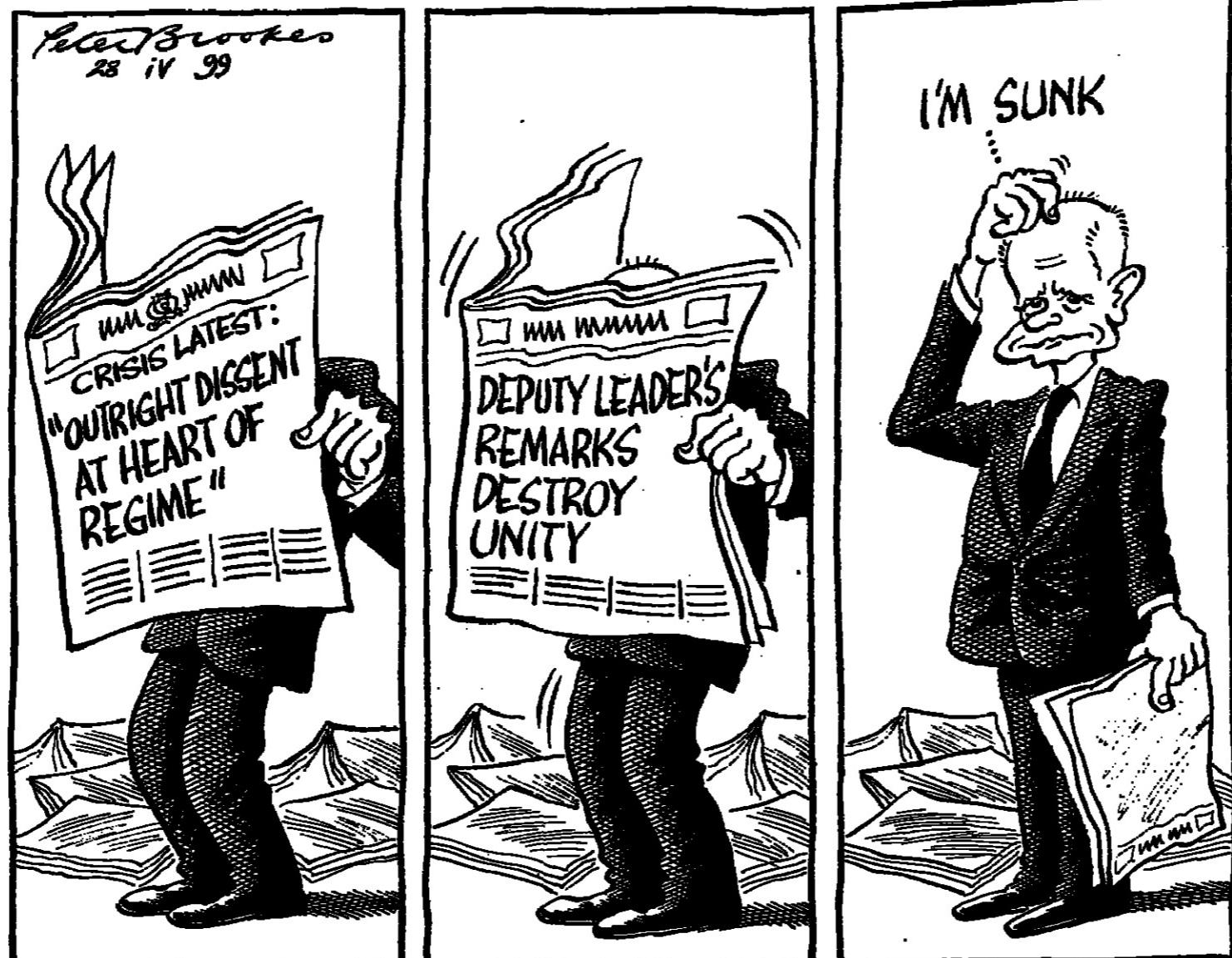
Thirdly, the thesis of "globalisation" is no more than a particular, and limited, construction of reality. A "global" vision is in fact partial and myopic; it sees the wood rather than the trees. It is also a truism. The world is, by definition, "global", and can be no other. Mercantile and financial greed, especially, have always been global in their intended purchase. There is nothing new about it today, except in its degree.

Moreover, "global" as the world must be, the sun still rises upon us in the particular place (and nation) where we are. We have, much as before, our exits and our entrances, even if science may interfere. We can change our minds, as we can change — some of us — our habitats and habits. But we cannot retrospectively change our particular place of birth, or our particular maternal language, any more than we can change our race, or our colour, or — despite "gender reassignment" — our sex.

And only with difficulty can we deny our natural predispositions and talents, our preferences and prejudices, including those in favour of one particular form of local belonging or affiliation over another. The globetrotting politician, banker, tourist, mafioso or intellectual can see, from the air, the global dimension of human existence. But men and women on the ground are confined, and generally secured, by their associations in a particular place and time.

We are not "citizens of the world". We cannot be: the very concept is a contradiction in terms. But then "globalisation", as a theory, is like that. In common with its predecessor, the "end of history", it promises much as an explanatory notion in our dark times, yet at the last, provides no real illumination at all.

[comment@the-times.co.uk](mailto:comment@the-times.co.uk)



## Agony Auntie

I BOW to no one in my grief after the death of Jill Dando. But signs that a strange, Diana-esque cult of sadness is taking hold are evident at the BBC. Staff have been offered round-the-clock grief counselling.

A global e-mail has been sent to employees by Richard Sambrook, head of news gathering, saying that teams of therapists have been drafted in to White City. Even those who never met the presenter can seek therapy "no questions asked".

Security has also been stepped up. Michael Buerk, Anna Ford and Kate Adie will no longer be allowed into the building without passes. Ed Halling, chief investigator at the BBC, has been charged with reviewing security for potential targets. He has received 20 calls since Miss Dando's death, as fears for the safety of big names grow: "They are certainly concerned about a threat to BBC staff."

**MORE** motoring capers with Peter Mandelson. Luxuriating in his new Fiat Punto at the weekend, his exhaust fell off.

■ ACUTELY aware of the frailties of youth, Eddie Bell might give Michael Owen (below left) an early bath. The HarperCollins boss (right) is worried about his £1 million signing. The Liverpool star was stretched off the pitch after agreeing to write his memoirs (not



bad for a 19-year-old). His little mishap, ending his season, set lawyers thinking.

"We have included an injury clause," says Michael Doggett, handler. "We are protected against long-term injury. As long as it is passing, then the deal stays." If not, "further negotiation" will be in order. Bell, an Arsenal man, says: "I am sure he will be back next season causing havoc for us."

**BERNARD MANNING** is William Hague's answer to Sean Connery in Scotland. The amusing bon vivant has been wheeled out as the Tories' most vibrant celebrity. Here is his rallying call: "Socialism doesn't work. Look at Russia. You can't take out of the pot what you're not putting in. Unity is power. That's my motto." And Stalin's, too.

■ STEPHEN TWIGG has had to curb his ambitions. The MP has cancelled his £200-a-head dinner to launch his re-election campaign for Enfield Southgate. Awkwardly, the fundraiser would have set the clock ticking on crucial election expenses.

Stephen took advice. "On reflection I decided this wasn't an appropriate event at this time," he says. Peter Mandelson, the star speaker, lost the chance to help to propel him back into higher office, but is promised another go soon.



THE CRISIS OF  
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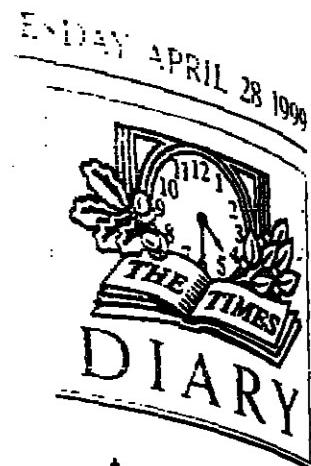
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Agony Auntie

## CRISIS OF CLARITY

The current Conservative strategy lacks credibility

Only the conflict in Kosovo and tragic shootings at home and abroad have obscured just how traumatic the past week has been for the Conservative Party. Its Central Office is riven by scapegoat hunters. The Shadow Cabinet is in utter disarray. The parliamentary party, which thought that it had lost the capacity for shock, is bitter and angry. Old alliances have been broken. Many of those most appalled by Peter Lilley's address last week were his staunchest supporters when he was the Conservative leadership in 1997.

It is worth recapping why Mr Lilley's lecture, and William Hague's defence of his deputy, proved such an important moment. Mr Lilley was understandably sensitive to the charge that Tories are not trusted to run the public services. He appreciates that this lack of trust stems from an impression that the party is bent on crudely privatising huge chunks of the health and education sectors. But Mr Lilley's attack on the principle of market solutions, which offer a useful additional discipline to the spirit of public service, was of a rare intensity and tone. It cut the ground from under those of his colleagues who are seeking new, and sophisticated, policies. He repudiated a mythical past without offering any sense of a solid future. The Tory future is a *terram incognitum* that may never be found by those who are now in charge.

On Monday evening the Shadow Chancellor, Francis Maude, promised to match the additional expenditure on the NHS and schools that has been pledged by the Chancellor. In a limited sense the specific pledge on money already committed could be seen as understandable. Apparent confusion over where the Tories stand on health and education spending has been exploited for nine months by the Labour leadership. It was never likely that the

Conservatives could enter the next election committed to rolling back Mr Brown's spending on the NHS.

But this question opens several others for the future. As the economy turns in Mr Brown's direction, he is steadily building up his war chest. He has already proposed an income tax cut and it is certain that there will be further announcements of even more billions of pounds for health and education. Have the Tories decided that they will match such an electoral bid or even attempt to outflank the Chancellor? What scope will be left for tax reform or any other aspect of their potential agenda if they do? Sir Alex Douglas Home once described the 1964 Labour manifesto as a "menu without prices". The Shadow Chancellor has now entered an auction without a ceiling.

When the issue is the public services the Conservatives cannot hope to spend their way to mass affection. Their only prospect is to persuade an increasingly sophisticated electorate that schools and hospitals need to be run differently if they are to be affordable and effective. This was precisely the possibility that Mr Lilley's colleagues felt that his speech closed down. This issue is not, as Mr Hague seems to think, the equivalent of Labour's Clause IV. The Tory message should be, to borrow from the Prime Minister, "what matters is what works".

The local election results on May 6 will probably provide Mr Hague with a respite from his problems. An advance of more than a thousand council seats on a mere 25 per cent turnout may raise morale but will not, in brutal truth, be good result. The Conservatives have suffered a crisis of clarity not for two years but for at least seven and until that ends they are unlikely to stage a recovery. They are in a deep hole and, for the moment, cannot stop digging.

## A BLIP ON THE SCREEN

The West should not assume that Milosevic is weakening

For the past week the British Government has claimed that cracks are appearing in the Yugoslav leadership. George Robertson sees in the revealing television broadcast by Vuk Draskovic, the Deputy Prime Minister, which admitted the gravity of Serbia's predicament, "a hole in the facade". Last week he spoke of "panic and concern" in the Yugoslav High Command. Nato echoes these claims.

Much of this is wishful thinking. The broadcast was indeed the first inkling Serbs have officially given that they are isolated, that Nato unity has held, and, significantly, that atrocities are being committed in Kosovo that constitute war crimes. It might seem to take some courage to question nationalist-patriotic propaganda at a time when public anger at Nato is intense. But analysis should consider the source. Mr Draskovic has changed direction so many times and with such brazen opportunism that he has ceased to have much domestic credibility.

He began his political career as an ultra-nationalist proponent of Greater Serbia and ally of the fascist Vojislav Seselj. But he then turned against the wars in Croatia and Bosnia and recast himself as a liberal opponent of Slobodan Milosevic, bent on rescuing Serbia from isolation. Joining with two other opposition leaders in the "Zajedno alliance", he showed some courage as a leader of protest marches and was arrested and beaten by security forces. But Zajedno, which two years ago was a real focus for political opposition, disintegrated as a result of personal rivalries. In an act widely seen as a betrayal, Mr Draskovic then joined the Government.

The suspicion must therefore be that Mr Milosevic, the master puppeteer, has licensed him to voice his criticisms – as a sop to pent-up resentment on the streets

and a faint to fool foreigners that his Government is reasonable and realistic. His aim is to strengthen Western voices for compromise, by using Mr Draskovic to suggest a softening of Belgrade's position. Greeks, Canadians and others minded to give Russian diplomacy every chance will point to Mr Draskovic as evidence that Belgrade may be ready to talk. At home, the broadcast could be useful in flushing out opposition which can then be crushed.

Mr Milosevic has spent a decade outwitting his enemies. The army presents a far greater threat than his powerless lieutenant. He was sufficiently unsure of its loyalty last November to purge its leadership, replacing the chief of staff, head of state security and head of the air force with loyalists and men ready to do his bidding in Kosovo. Last month, he purged the Montenegro army command. But in the senior ranks there are still thought to be many officers appalled by ethnic cleansing and deeply resentful of what they see as a stain on the reputation of an army with considerable professional pride.

A threat might also come from Mr Milosevic's corrupt inner circle of cronies. They see their sources of wealth, from smuggling and the control of state assets and monopolies, disappearing under Nato bombs and their foreign bank accounts frozen. There is neither love nor loyalty in such a circle; few of these profiteers would have qualms if Mr Milosevic encountered the kind of "accident" that his enemies have suffered. He has shown few signs of cracking under pressure. But his paranoia shows in the murder of a prominent newspaper editor and the expulsion and prior censorship of foreign journalists. The apparently impregnable Ceausescu regime in Romania cracked without warning. So could that in Belgrade.

## ONLY CONNECT

London's Millennium Bridge links the future with the past

Almost three hundred years ago an elderly man must have thrown wide the windows of his riverside home and gazed out across the waters. And he must have smiled his bin, proud smile at the view. For there, on the far, northern bank of the Thames, his most splendid achievement was slowly rising, rearing its great dome above a city's skyline. The man was Christopher Wren and St Paul's, his cathedral, was to become one of the capital's finest monuments. Yet the view of it which Wren would once have so admired has scarcely been appreciated since. Bankside, where Wren died, was until recently an inhospitable place, its embankment a litter-strewn strip the edge of Southwark, one of London's poorest boroughs. And it has been many years since the Thames was crossed by nothing lighter than ferries carrying passengers. Soon Wren's view may be enjoyed once more. This morning John Prescott, the deputy Prime Minister, inaugurates the construction of the Millennium Bridge. Before the year 2000 has passed, a slender steel walkway will have been thrown out across the Thames, joining St Paul's on the south bank with the new Tate Gallery of Modern Art at Bankside. The first pedestrian-only bridge ever to have spanned the river, it will restore to modern Londoners some of the sights of their history. It will link the past with the present.

The best bridges have always been as symbolic as they are serviceable; they have always amounted to more than the sum of their parts or their practicality. Human nature is wary of gaps. Structures are cast out across empty spaces to link times and ideas and communities together. The new Millennium Bridge will help to do all this. One of the few London landmarks genuinely to belong equally to north and south bank dwellers, it will work to knit traditionally divided districts. It will join the financial centres of the City with the world of the Tate, link high-tech skyscrapers to the 16th century in Shakespeare's reconstructed Globe.

Perhaps most importantly, this elegant new structure will help to restore the delights of the Thames to those who live in or visit London. Banked away behind concrete, traversed only by traffic, rarely sensed except through the roar and fume of impatient motors, the river has been neglected. But when the bridge – designed by sculptor Anthony Caro and the architect Sir Norman Foster – is completed, walkers will be able to stroll out across the spaces of the water. They will be able to listen to the slow slap and suck of the tides, smell the salt-tinged winds, watch the treacherous roll of suspended sediments – sense the essence of an urban river as it captures the spirit of today.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

## 'Cries of pain' at legal aid reform

From Mr Charles Holcombe

Sir, The Lord Chancellor and the Law Society are at odds over the proposed cuts in legal aid, which is currently running away with £1.6 billion of taxpayers' money (report, "Legal clashes with Law Society", April 26).

That the Lord Chancellor wishes to change the culture of our litigation scene is admirable, but what organisation in its right mind would agree to curb £1.6 billion of fees?

Of course we all know that the present system is exceptionally adversarial – as anyone who has been through a divorce will no doubt know – but with an almost unlimited supply of money to fight the case, why should lawyers even contemplate killing the proverbial goose?

Expensive full-page adverts by the Law Society this week show just how worried it is that these reforms will affect its members, but most people who do not have any vested interest in these matters will know that a change is drastically needed in the whole culture of our litigation process where lawyers are motivated not by justice, but more often just pure greed, and this is surely wrong.

I hope that the Lord Chancellor will not budge in his reforms.

Sincerely,  
C. HOLCOMBE,  
6 Dorset Gardens,  
Brighton BN2 1RL  
April 26.

From Mr Gerard Cosgrove

Sir, Would not the interests of the individual who features in the Law Society's expensive advertisement today be best served by a competent lawyer (confident in their own ability to gain reward in a no-win, no-fee arrangement) rather than by someone who wanted guaranteed payment regardless of their ability to plead the case successfully?

Or is the Law Society saying that its members deserve to be paid regardless of their competence?

The case, as quoted, looked like a cast-iron cert, but the Law Society seems to be implying that none of its members would touch it with a bargepole unless they had guaranteed money made available.

Yours faithfully,  
GERARD COSGROVE,  
13 Jarrett Avenue,  
Wainfleet,  
Rochester, Kent ME2 4NN.  
April 26.

From Mr Julian Nettlefold

Sir, I am amused by the cries of pain from the Law Society with regard to the Access to Justice Bill.

It is worried that a litigant can only win legal aid if "he can prove he's almost certain to win his case". For decades lawyers have told clients that they are bound to win their case and should immediately apply for legal aid.

Now it appears the Government has at last called their bluff.

Yours faithfully,  
JULIAN NETTLEFOLD,  
3 Barne Mains,  
Haddington,  
East Lothian EH41 3SA.  
j.nettlefold@battle-technology.com  
April 26.

Pension claim delays

From Miss Rifaat Mushtaq

Sir, On January 11, 1995, I issued proceedings on behalf of a lady who had worked part-time at the same branch of a multinational food company for some 17 years.

She had just retired on her 65th birthday and was ineligible for a pension. This is one of the 45,000 similar cases that have been lodged in the Employment Tribunal. The claim was stayed shortly thereafter.

Now 69, my client, who has never been involved in litigation before, is finding the wait for her claim to be heard stressful. The lead case still has not been determined by the European Court of Justice.

For a long time I have felt that the delay has been a scandal, but I am now extremely anxious following the decision of the Employment Appeal Tribunal in the case of Lewisham and Guy's Mental Health Trust v Andrews (Law Report, April 21).

The EAT held that there was no power conferred on the tribunals in either the Race Relations or Sex Discrimination Acts to substitute as claimant the estate of a person who died. I had already been told that a significant number of the claimants had died.

Not only should these cases be expedited but I would suggest that Parliament amends the law forthwith so that the claimants' rights will survive their death.

I write this letter today, when fast-tracking is introduced in the Civil Courts. My client will be too old to enjoy her pension, if ultimately successful, and if she dies her estate cannot benefit. Unscrupulous defendants have every reason to delay the determination of these claims.

Will the Government move quickly to resolve these problems?

Yours faithfully,  
RIFAAT MUSHTAQ,  
Mushtaq and Co (solicitors),  
14-16 Bristol Street,  
Birmingham B5 7AA.  
April 26.

## Changing influences on divorce

From Ms Mary Hooper

Sir, The owner of Country Partners, the introduction agency for the over-45s, says husbands "go off with younger women" (report, "Divorce edges out the silver wedding", April 24). But I have found it is more often the older wife who instigates the marriage break-up, usually because she is no longer prepared to put up with her husband's attitudes or treatment of her. Behaviour that we tolerated in our twenties is no longer funny now we are in our fifties.

Those of us who married before the onset of feminism were taught to treat our husbands with deference. They were the men, in charge, heads of households. If, in return, they treated us thoughtlessly, selfishly or without respect then we just had to put up with it.

Since the Seventies, however, a different type of relationship has been possible: a new one where both partners are of equal importance and both have views which matter. Respect, tenderness and love are of paramount importance, and if these are non-existent in a relationship then more and more older women are feeling brave enough to move on.

Yours faithfully,  
MARY HOOPER,  
27 Bell Road,  
East Molesley, Surrey KT8 0SS.  
April 24.

From Mr Francis Campbell

Sir, In the Child Support Agency's booklet *For parents who live apart*, the parent who lives with the child or children concerned is called "the parent with care". The other one is called "the non-resident parent". Here are two quotations from the booklet (*my italics*):

Note that the amount you pay may be lower in the minority of cases where the parent with care has substantial income of her own.

If the non-resident parent gets Income Support... he will pay nothing if he is sick or disabled or has dependent children in his household.

Do not these quotes reveal institutional sexism and prejudice in the CSA?

Yours faithfully,  
FRANCIS CAMPBELL,  
1 Mendip View, Wrington Road,  
Congresbury, Somerset BS49 5AN.  
April 26.

From Dr Dominic Horne

Sir, On the day of the funeral of six employees of Serbian television it was interesting to contrast the reporting of and reaction to the murder of one of their British colleagues. In my opinion their killing was not any less heinous an act and no less deserving of our revulsion.

Today, following the tragic murder of Jill Dando, your Home Correspondent Richard Ford states (later editions) that "one reason for the rise of the hitman is the much greater availability of handguns". You cannot have it both ways: with the threat of ten years' imprisonment for non-compliance, legally held pistols were handed in.

It appears that, far from improved public safety, there is suddenly a greater availability; most strange.

Yours faithfully,  
R. A. D. ORCHARD,  
12 Elm Close,  
Waltham Abbey, Essex EN9 1SQ.  
April 27.

## EU patron saint

From Mr Keith Havelock

Sir, I command St Bruno, the patron saint of trade marks and of the Institute of Trade Mark Attorneys, as a patron saint for Europe (letters, April 14 and 21). As the EU is essentially an economic and trading community (or at least we hope it is).

Yours truly,  
KEITH HAVELOCK,  
Kintail, 25 Beaconsfield Road,  
Claygate, Surrey KT10 0PN.  
April 21.

From Mr James Thomas

Sir, Plain Hermes – surely a candidate Messenger and herald of the gods, the divinity of commerce, theft, travellers and rascals. Also regarded as the patron of travellers, merchants, and of thieves, pickpockets and all dishonest persons.

Yours faithfully,  
DENNIS WOOD,  
12 Selly Wick Drive,  
Selly Park, Birmingham B29 7JH.  
d.m.wood@bham.ac.uk  
April 23.

## Classical mix-up

From Mr Damian Boddy

Sir, If we must have a patron saint for the EU may I suggest St Jude (October 28), the patron saint for lost causes?

Yours faithfully,  
DAMIAN BODDY,  
113 Kenyon Lane, Croft,  
Warrington, Cheshire WA3 7DU.  
April 27.

From Mrs Susan Maxwell Scott

Sir, If we must have a patron saint for the EU may I suggest St Jude (October 28), the patron saint for lost causes?

Yours faithfully,  
SUSAN MAXWELL SCOTT,  
12 Kelmscott Road, SW1 6QY.  
April 26.

Branson's business

From Mr Brian Basham

Sir, On September 8 last year you published an extract from Richard Branson's autobiography, under the headline "If I was going to stop BA's Dirty Tricks Campaign, I needed proof".

At that time I was still embroiled in libel actions, which I won, against the author and publisher of the book, *Dirty Tricks*, which covered much of the same ground as your serialisation.

Your extract failed to reflect that in his book Branson himself mitigates the accusations levelled against me. As an example, he concedes that I was engaged in corporate research, when he says (page 374): "To be fair to Basham, he was concentrating on Virgin's corporate profile."

Your readers were informed that I told a reporter that a rumour was circulating that Virgin Atlantic was having to pay cash for fuel. They were not told (page 381) that I warned the

journalist that the truth of the rumour could not be verified by BA.

You also omitted evidence that confirms the accuracy of my research. No reference was made to Branson's many cash crisis admissions, in particular (page 322):

"Signing Janet Jackson would send out the right message to all the people in the City and the CAA who might believe the British Airways rumours that the Virgin Group was suffering a cash crisis. The only trouble was that we were indeed suffering a cash crisis."

These facts support my contention that I conducted an objective and accurate assessment of Branson's business which was far removed from dirty tricks.

Yours faithfully,  
BRIAN BASHAM,  
14 Elsworthy Rise, NW3 3SH.

Letters should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be faxed to 0171-782 5



## COURT CIRCULAR

**WINDSOR CASTLE**  
April 22: By command of The Queen, Vice Admiral Sir James Weatherall (Marshal of the Diplomatic Corps) called upon His Excellency Mr Richard Heath, 73, Deanes Court, Road, London, this afternoon, in order to bid farewell to His Excellency upon relinquishing his appointment as High Commissioner for Jamaica in London.

April 27: The Governor-General of Australia and Lady Deane were invited to lunch with The Queen.

April 27: The Duke of Edinburgh this morning departed from Riyadh for Jeddah.

His Royal Highness this afternoon visited Deira, Jeddah.

The Duke of Edinburgh this evening attended The Queen's Birthday Party Reception at the British Consulate General and later attended a Dinner with the Crown Prince.

**ST JAMES'S PALACE**

April 27: The Prince of Wales, President, Business in the Community, this morning presented the Community Enterprise Awards 1999.

His Royal Highness, President, The King Fund this afternoon received the Prince of Wales Executive, Rahil Jutta Neuberger.

The Prince of Wales, President, The Mary Rose Trust, received the Trust's Chairman, Sir David Coodey.

**BUCKINGHAM PALACE**

April 27: The Princess Royal, Colonel in the Royal Corps of Signals, attended the following engagements:

Her Royal Highness this morning visited the Riding Stables at Happy Valley.

The Princess Royal afterwards visited the Joint Service Signal Unit, 100, Royal Engineers, Happy Valley.

Her Royal Highness subsequently viewed the Astro-Nikolaus Primary School and Youth Club presentations at Happy Valley.

The Princess Royal later watched the Army's 10th Annual Show at the Rugby Union, Happy Valley.

Her Royal Highness subsequently viewed the Auto Quest Stadium, Widnes.

Her Royal Highness this afternoon officially opened the Millennium Learning Centre at the John Smith & Community College, Warrington.

The Duke of Kent, Grand President, Grand Lodge of England, this evening attended a dinner in honour of the Grand Master of Sweden, at the Great Hall, Linlithgow Palace.

**MATRON'S HOUSE LODGE**

April 27: Princess Alexandra, Colonel-in-Chief, The King's Own Royal Border Regiment, this afternoon visited Bordon Barracks, Catterick Garrison, to meet families of soldiers from the Regiment and from 5 Regiment Royal Artillery who are involved in the current Nato action.

quarters at RAF Akrotiri.

Her Royal Highness visited the Royal Logistic Corps' Vessel *Andalucia* at Akrotiri.

The Princess Royal later departed Cyprus for Egypt and was received at Cairo International Airport by The Cairo Ambassador to Egypt (His Excellency Sir David Blaizeck).

Her Royal Highness this evening attended a dinner given by the Minister of Culture (Mr Farouq Hosni) at Beit Al-Harawi, Cairo.

**KENSINGTON PALACE**

April 27: The Duke of Gloucester this evening attended a Church Army Service of Thanksgiving and Reception in the Cathedral, and was received by His Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant for Derbyshire (Mr John Barber).

The Duchess of Gloucester today visited Lincolnshire and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant (Mrs Bridget Craven-Eley).

Her Royal Highness opened the new buildings at the Deepings School, Deepings St James, Lincolnshire.

Her Royal Highness afterwards visited Holbeck Hospital, Holbeach, Lincolnshire.

Her Royal Highness later opened the new premises of Nursery Supplies (Bourne) Ltd, Spalding Road, Bourne, Lincolnshire.

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Her Royal Highness this afternoon visited 29 Signal Squadron at Happy Valley and watched a display by the Red Arrows at Linton-on-Ouse, Bedfordshire.

The Princess Royal today attended a luncheon at the Sergeant's Mess, RAF Akrotiri.

Her Royal Highness, Colonel in Chief, The Royal Logistic Corps, undertook the following engagements:

The Princess Royal this afternoon visited the Cyprus Logistics Unit Head-

### Birthdays today

Lady Helen Taylor celebrates her 55th birthday today.

Mr P.T. Baileman, executive chairman, Robert Fleming Asset Management, 53; Mr Ian Beer, former Head Master, Harrow School, 68; Professor Hugh Benzel, cardiac surgeon, 79; Mr Edward Bonner-Maurice, former chairman, British Horse Society, 71; Mr Mike Brearley, cricketer and commentator, 57; Baroness Cade, 60; Mr Alan Cohen, former chairman, Bonham's and City Solicitor, Corporation of London, 52; Commandant Elizabeth Craig-McFeely, former director, FRNS, 72; Mr Duane Eddy, guitarist, 56; Mr Tony Ford, director, Crafts Council, 61; Dr Kenneth Kaunda, former President of Zambia, 75; Professor Nicola LeFanu, composer, 52; Sir John Leonard, former High Court judge, 73; Earl Lloyd George of Dwyfor, 75; Dr M.D. Longfield, former director, Technical Polytechnic, 71; Mr John Madijski, former chairman, Hurn Publishing, 50; Mr William Mansfield, former Constable, Flic 68; Sir Dai Rees, FRS, former chief executive, Medical Research Council, 63; Dr Jeffrey Tate, conductor, 56; Mr J.L. Thorn, former Headmaster, Winchester College, 74; Mr Garry Weston, chairman, Association of British Foods, 72; Mrs Helen Williams, former High Mistress, St Paul's Girls' School, 61; Mr Kenneth Williams, Chief Constable, Norfolk, 55.

**School news**

Holmewood House.

A history of Holmewood House, Langton Green, Kent, The First Fifty Years is now available from the School Office. Telephone 01892 860000.

**George Ross Goobey**

A memorial service to celebrate the life of George Henry Ross Goobey will be held on May 20, 1999, at St Lawrence, Jewry-new-Guildhall, London, EC2, at 11.30am.

### Royal engagements

The Prince of Wales will open the Dudley Stationery Distribution Centre, holders of the Prince of Wales's Warrant, at Crown Close, Wick Lane, Bow, London E3.

The Duke of Kent, Grand Master,

Grand Lodge of England, this evening attended a dinner in honour of the Grand Master of Sweden, at the Great Hall, Linlithgow Palace.

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APRIL 28  
forthcoming  
marriages

THE TIMES WEDNESDAY APRIL 28 1999

## OBITUARIES

### AIR COMMODORE J. M. N. PIKE

Air Commodore J. M. N. Pike, CB, DSO, DFC, wartime bomber and Coastal Command pilot, died on March 23 aged 83. He was born on February 8, 1916.

IN A wartime career during which he flew 189 operational sorties, Jimmie Pike was airborne almost from first to last. His war took him from North Sea reconnaissance to the Ethiopian campaign, back to Britain to try to counter the threat from the battlecruisers *Scharnhorst* and *Gneisenau* and south again to protect Malta convoys, before he was finally posted to the Azores where he flew antisubmarine sorties during the Battle of the Atlantic. The aircraft he flew ranged from Sunderland reconnaissance flying boats through ground attack Beaufighters to Flying Fortresses.

James Maidland Nicholson Pike was educated at Stowe and then taught for a year at a preparatory school before going to Cranwell, where he won both the Sword of Honour and the King's Medal. At the outbreak of war he was in Coastal Command, patrolling the North Sea in Ansons, but by the autumn of 1940 he found himself flying Blenheim bombers in support of British forces grappling with the Italians in British Somaliland.

In February 1941 he had a close shave when, after destroying a fighter and three bombers on the ground in two low-level attacks on an airfield in Ethiopia, he was assailed by a fighter which had survived his first bombing run

and taken off in pursuit. His aircraft was severely damaged by the fighter's machine-guns, but he managed to limp back to his base at Aden on one engine and make a belly-landing, without injury to his crew. For this he won his DFC.

In England, he was appointed a flight commander in 236 (Beaufighter) Squadron. One of his tasks was reconnaissance of Brest harbour, where the German battlecruisers *Scharnhorst* and *Gneisenau*

were sheltering under heavy flak defences. When he returned to base with a detailed account of the disposition of the ships and harbour defences he was rebuked for not having attacked a ship which had opened fire on him. Pike protested that he had been sent to bring back intelligence, not to risk his aircraft and crew in duels with heavily armed opponents.

Nevertheless, to oblige the fiery spirit of his armchair superiors, on a second visit to Brest he did take on the flak ship, raking it with his four

20mm cannon but getting badly shot up himself in the process — only to be rebuked by another senior officer for needlessly risking his aircraft.

In Malta in 1942, Pike was engaged in protecting convoys and attacking German shipping. He also led a series of devastating attacks on the Italian Air Force on the ground at its bases in Sardinia. On one occasion he led a four-aircraft section which destroyed 30 enemy planes in a single sortie. This earned him the DSO. He ended the war in command of 220 Squadron, flying American B17 Flying Fortresses on antisubmarine patrols from bases made available by the Portuguese in the Azores. He was mentioned in despatches three times.

Among his postwar appointments was a period as commanding officer of RAF Kuala Lumpur at the time of the communist insurrection in Malaya. This won him a fourth mention in despatches. He went on to be one of the two directors of intelligence at the Ministry of Defence and then Director of Security (RAF) in 1964.

After retiring from the RAF in 1969 he joined Naval Intelligence, where he worked for nine years. Pike was a keen yachtsman and a fine game shot and fisherman.

His marriage in 1942 to Betty Dell was dissolved. In 1955 he married Paula Hellard, who died in 1971. He married, thirdly, Dorothy Dawson, who died in 1994. He is survived by a daughter of his first marriage and by a son of his second.

He received a letter out of the blue saying that under the postwar Control of Engagement Order he was to leave the gambling industry forthwith and report to the Labour Exchange for more useful employment. There a door clerk gave him two alternatives: the mines or the police. Joining the Metropolitan Police looked the lesser evil, although at the time policing was an ill-paid, poorly regarded job, mainly for the strong and not-too-bright.

A fortnight later, at an office in Bea Street, Dixon was given a certificate of exemption from all educational tests, and ushered nimbly into a small room. A man in a white coat came and stared at his lower half, examined his feet, and went wordlessly away. Shortly afterwards Dixon was transferred to Special Branch.

There he specialised in anarchists, Trotskyites and anarchist-syndicalists. His moment

came in 1968 when, after unrest in Paris and amid mounting international protests about the Vietnam War, there were fears that London

Conrad Dixon, policeman, died on April 13 aged 72. He was born on January 27, 1927.

One of the most colourful characters in the intelligence world, Conrad Dixon pioneered special operations intended to frustrate the threat from subversive and terrorist organisations. As Detective Chief Superintendent Dixon, he was founder and leader of the so-called "Scruffy Squad", which was active against anti-state elements in the 1960s and 1970s.

Conrad Hepworth Dixon was born into an Army family and educated at Bishop Wordsworth's School, Salisbury, and at St Peter's Hall, Oxford. He joined the Royal Marines at the end of the war and was commissioned. On demobilisation he took a job with a football pools company, but a bizarre sequence of events brought him into the Metropolitan Police.

He received a letter out of the blue saying that under the postwar Control of Engagement Order he was to leave the gambling industry forthwith and report to the Labour Exchange for more useful employment.

There was to be the next focus of discontent. Dixon was sent for and asked what he would need to gather top-grade information about the would-be revolutionaries. "Twenty men," he replied, "half a million pounds and a free hand."

Officers from the Scruffy Squad were moulded and shaped into a variety of convincing revolutionary guises, with the appropriate political knowledge, and infiltrated into local groups. Dixon led from the front, and when the London School of Economics was occupied by revolting students, he was first up the steps and — in textbook style — promptly took charge of the telephone exchange so as to control communication with the press.

On the day of the big demonstration in October 1968, he advised that thin lines of police invited a charge, whereas grouping in side streets meant that any attack on the police would involve a departure from the route of the march to Grosvenor Square. This policy worked, and with confrontation reduced there was a gradual loss of enthusiasm. A thousand people skirmished with the police at the American Embassy, but most of the putative anarchists ate their sandwiches in Hyde Park and went home.

Dixon's skills were next called upon in Wales, where the Free Wales Army was setting off minor explosions and was reported to be taking lessons from the IRA. The separatists were soon alarmed by the penetration of their groupuscles, and even produced a poster about the danger, which appeared on a host of telegraph poles. It showed a listening figure at a mountain crossroads, with the caption "Dixon's Secret Police in Wales". Before long the principal bomb-maker and his assistant were arrested, and the movement collapsed.

### CONRAD DIXON



Conrad Dixon: seadog and undercover policeman

Despite his part in suppressing it, however, Dixon understood the cause of the Welsh discontent. It was due, he said, to neglect of the Principality, where it was widely believed that the Aberfan disaster would never have happened had the coal tip been on the outskirts of Highgate.

Back in London, Dixon headed the intelligence unit that investigated the Angry Brigade, a group of mainly middle-class terrorists who were planting bombs and preaching an anti-capitalist creed. Dixon identified two weaknesses: they lived in communes; and with considerable contact with other revolutionaries, and they financed their activities by cheque and credit-card fraud.

He was present at an East End commune when a battered German-setter car pulled up outside and a nervous girl got out and ran away. He ordered the seizure of the car and had it taken to pieces. In a sealed compartment were dozens of left-wing locker keys, and the lockers turned out to contain cheque books and details of the organisation. Convictions followed.

In 1973, Dixon was strongly urged to "go straight" by training to be a Constable at Bramshill Police College, but he was not paid to sit behind a desk and the writer sought out new orders, even when there was a dearth of work in yards all over Europe. By 1964 he was warning of the increasing threat from Japanese ship-builders, conceding "If we paid out nothing in wages at Lithgow then we might just about beat the Japanese price level." Nevertheless, when other British companies were struggling to stay afloat, he managed to bring much-needed contracts to Port Glasgow.

One of his more memorable deals was a multi-million-pound order from the Far East for vessels which were apparently too big for the Port Glasgow facilities. Undeterred, he consulted his technical team and devised a way of constructing the vessels in two halves, to be joined when afloat. It was the first time this had been achieved in tidal waters.

As president of the Shipbuilders' and Repairers' National Association, Belch represented the industry when the Callaghan Government planned to nationalise it — a move to which he was deeply opposed. When nationalisation came, in 1976, he became part of the committee established to look at how the industry would function under public ownership, urging decentralisation and emergency investment. Eventually he joined the board of British Shipbuilders until 1979.

His proudest achievement was the successful acquisition of Ferguson Shipbuilders from Kvaerner. This small, specialist yard prospered under his chairmanship, establishing a strong portfolio of clients, including both government and private companies. Its success led to its being bought by the Glasgow company Holland House in 1995.

Belch was chairman of Irvine Development Corporation for five years until his retirement in 1990, and held a similar post with various shipping companies, as well as establishing two of his own: Altnacraig Shipping and Altanara Shipping. He was also associated with the Norwegian merchant shipping group Jebens, acting as chairman of its travel subsidiary.

He was appointed CBE in 1972 and knighted in 1991 for services to Scottish industry. Ross Belch was a Fellow of the Royal Society of Edinburgh and of the Royal Institution of Naval Architects, and helped to establish the Scottish Maritime Museum at Irvine.

Ross Belch's first wife, Jan, died in 1988. They had four daughters, who all survive him, as does his second wife, Dorothy.

### SIR ROSS BELCH

Sir Ross Belch, CBE, industrialist, died on March 26 aged 78. He was born on December 13, 1920.

FOR more than 40 years Ross Belch was at the centre of Scottish shipbuilding, ever ready to defend Britain's interests in a period which saw the virtual collapse of the domestic industry. He was one of the last great figures of shipbuilding on the Clyde.

Alexander Ross Belch was born in London, where his father was secretary of the Shipbuilding Employers Federation. His first visit to a shipyard was in 1934 to witness the launch of the Queen Mary from John Brown's yard at Clydebank. Belch was sent to board at Morrison's Academy, and proceeded to study naval architecture at Glasgow University, where he took a first.

He began his career in 1938 as an apprentice in the Fairfield yard at Govan, where he soon became known as an innovator both in shipbuilding methods and in industrial relations, a traditionally prickly thicket, where his diplomacy was a great asset.

He rose to be managing director first of Lithgow in Port Glasgow and later of the Scott Lithgow Group in Greenock, and was valued not least for his salesmanship. He tirelessly sought out new orders, even when there was a dearth of work in yards all over Europe. By 1964 he was warning of the increasing threat from Japanese ship-builders, conceding "If we paid out nothing in wages at Lithgow then we might just about beat the Japanese price level." Nevertheless, when other British companies were struggling to stay afloat, he managed to bring much-needed contracts to Port Glasgow.

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### PROFESSOR DAVID DAUBE

Professor David Daube, biblical and legal scholar, died on February 24 aged 90. He was born on February 8, 1909.

DAVID DAUBE'S 65th birthday was honoured by three Festsschriften, respectively by Roman lawyers, Jewish and Oriental lawyers, and New Testament scholars, reflecting the wide scope of his work.

David Daube was born in Freiburg im Breisgau in Germany, where he went to school and at university took up the study of legal history. He came to England as a Jewish refugee and obtained a position at Cambridge, where in 1935 he was elected a fellow of Gonville and Caius College. During the war he served on committees working for the evacuation of schools and hospitals, and with the return of peace, he became a university lecturer in Roman law.

Always interested in biblical studies, he was attracted by the Cambridge tradition of co-operation between Jews and Christians in the study of Christian origins. His contributions to the New Testament seminar run by Professor F. H. Dodd were erudite, sub-

tle and illuminating, as time and again he persuasively questioned old assumptions. In 1947 he published his *Studies in Biblical Law*.

In 1951 he became the first Professor of Jurisprudence at Aberdeen, where the breadth of his scholarship, his enthusiasm and the gaiety of his personality gained him immense popularity. In 1955 he became Regius Professor of Civil Law at Oxford, where he made a considerable impact on undergraduates, his witty allusions and calculated indiscretions being somehow enhanced by his unusual accent.

In 1970 he moved to the School of Law at the University of California at Berkeley, becoming curator of the Robbins Collection in Jewish and Roman Law. In his years there he became a well-loved figure, and he is remembered by hundreds as the charming eccentric foreign gentleman who strode along each dawn and dusk, hands clasped behind him and head down, through two miles of the least gentle streets of San Francisco to and from the Berkeley bus: who from the British Academy in 1957.

He is survived by his second wife, Helen Smelser, whom he married in 1968, and by three sons from an earlier marriage. In

this capacity she tackled a wide range of projects — from board and novelty books for young children to teenage novels — and was proud that she could not be "departmentalised". She had a particular fervour for the Walker fiction list, which she had built up from scratch over the past decade, with some notable successes.

There were two of which she was especially proud: *Why Weeps the Brogan?* by Hugh Scott and *Maplead* by Lesley Howarth were discovered among the pile of unsolicited manuscripts by the editor and, under her guidance, became major prize-winners — as, more recently, did Henrietta Brandford's *Fire Bed and Bone*. She played a vital role, too, in developing Lucy Cousins' bestselling *Maisy* books and their television adaptation.

Wendy was later became editorial director. The company is now one of the most successful children's publishers in the world.

Though a board member since Walker's death in 1991, Boase continued to be an assiduous hands-on editor. In

### WENDY BOASE



Boase: a passionate absorption in children's literature

Marshall Cavendish, where she met Sebastian Walker and Amelia Edwards, an acquaintance that was to be renewed some years later in a London pub, where she was invited to join Walker's fledgling publishing house "to look after the words".

Like the other two, Boase had no children of her own, but she shared their belief that young readers deserved better than much of what was being offered.

The challenge was to produce books of outstanding all-round quality, in content, design and production. From its beginnings in the spare bedroom of Walker's Islington house, the company grew to become a worldwide publishing force, with sister companies in America and Australia, and a turnover of more than £30 million. Boase's contribution to this success story was incalculable.

She arrived in Britain in 1968, and after teaching and travelling she settled in London, taking a job as a croupier. Her first publishing position was as a secretary at Reader's Digest, where she stayed for six years, mostly as a researcher. She then moved to

drive hundreds of miles to talk through a manuscript with an author. As an Australian, she once remarked, she had no problem with distances and besides, she drove very fast.

Wendy Boase is survived by her husband, John Vigurs.

for detail. She could be irascible and impatient but usually only in response to sloppiness or inaccuracy, which she abhorred. Though she demanded high standards — in herself as much as in others — she was a considerate and generous employer, attentive to the welfare of those who worked for her, particularly young and junior staff, many of whom benefited over the years.

With authors she was equally diligent and thoughtful: it was important to her to have an author's confidence, and to win it she was willing to go to great lengths.

It was not unusual for her to drive hundreds of miles to talk through a manuscript with an author. As an Australian, she once remarked, she had no problem with distances and besides, she drove very fast.

Wendy Boase is survived by her husband, John Vigurs.

about the station-yard in considerable numbers, and different parts of the route from Belgrave to Stratton Street as well were marked with assemblages waiting for the African explorer and his friends. The train was considerably over its time. At eight minutes to 6 o'clock the special train of saloon carriages steamed into the station... All attention was given to the second saloon. The traveller quickly descended from this carriage, and loud cheers were raised.

The crowds dispersed and Mr. Stanley had received his welcome. Later in the day he left for Sandringham, where he remained over yesterday. For the rest it is clear that Mr. Stanley is to be the lion of the season. Already the programme of entertainments, of banquets, and of receptions prepared for him is almost alarmingly long; but it may well be that when all is over, when his book has been published, and when he begins to take stock of his experiences, he will come to the conclusion that his reception by the people of London has been the greatest compliment which he has ever received.

### PERSONAL COLUMN

#### DEATHS

PHILLIPS - Dr. William aged 78 peacefully on April 28th 1999 at Beverley Hospital, East Yorkshire. Loving husband, much loved father and grandfather. Services at Beverley Minster, Friday 30th April at 1 pm, prior to private cremation. Family flowers only please, but donations for Macmillan Appeal.

ROGERS - Joan Marian, aged 75, died peacefully in her sleep in the early morning of Sunday 24th April. Funeral service at St. Paul's Church, Woking on Friday 29th April. Private cremation. No flowers please. Donations to Amnesty International.

SCOTT - Charlotte Kathleen Henley-on-Thames. Very much loved mother of Richard, Lynne and Sophie. Much loved grandmother of Joanne, Alex, Phoebe, Katherine, Charlotte, Beth, Florence, Thomas and Jamie. soulmate of Hamish. Died peacefully on April 29th, aged 78. Funeral at All Saints, Teddington at 2.30 pm. Interment at Teddington Cemetery on May 1st.

## NEWS

**Tories in crisis after sacking**

The Tory Party was in "crisis" last night over the leadership's attempt to downgrade Thatcherism after a senior party director was accused of disloyalty and sacked. Michael Simmonds, the £60,000-a-year director of marketing and membership, was called in at 8.30am by Michael Ancram, the chairman of the party, branded a leaker and told to clear his desk immediately..... Pages 1, 2

**Dando killer 'may have been fixated'**

Detectives hunting the gunman who murdered Jill Dando believe that the murderer could have been a man who had fantasized about her and built up a fatal fixation. Police have begun delving into the 38-year-old television presenter's private life, talking to former boyfriends and colleagues for any clues to someone with a grudge..... Pages 1, 4, 5

**More refugee airlifts**

More than 150 Kosovo refugees will arrive in Britain tomorrow as the emergency airlift of evacuees is set to become a twice weekly operation. The group of refugees, comprising 18 people needing medical treatment plus about 140 dependents, will land at East Midlands International Airport about noon..... Pages 1, 14, 15

**Julia steals the show**

Julia Roberts, the Hollywood superstar, may have been upstaged in the dress stakes by Liz Hurley, the British actress, but it was she who stole the show at the long-awaited premiere of her new film *Norbit*..... Page 1

**Students face life**

Two college students who stabbed their best friend to death because "he got on their nerves", and then burnt and dismembered his body, last night faced life in jail..... Page 3

**Prostitute support**

Prostitution is no greater a sin than adultery and more should be done to minister to prostitutes and those who use them, a church report says..... Page 6

**Mobile improvements**

Engineers at Leeds University have developed a transmitter the size of a cigarette packet that could make planning disputes over mobile phone masts a thing of the past..... Page 6

**Bird record for happy wanderer**

After a lifetime as a hatters' merchant, Harry Howard decided there must be more to life than making braid bows for trilbies. So he kissed goodbye to his wife and set off around the world to watch birds. A year later, the 59-year-old can claim a world record for bird-spotting, having seen a representative of every one of the 202 bird "families" in less than a year. Page 3



The Round Reading Room of the British Museum, lost under three radical redecorations since the building first opened in 1857, is being restored to its original glory. The project is expected to be completed by November 2000

## TOMORROW

## IN THE TIMES

## ■ FILMS

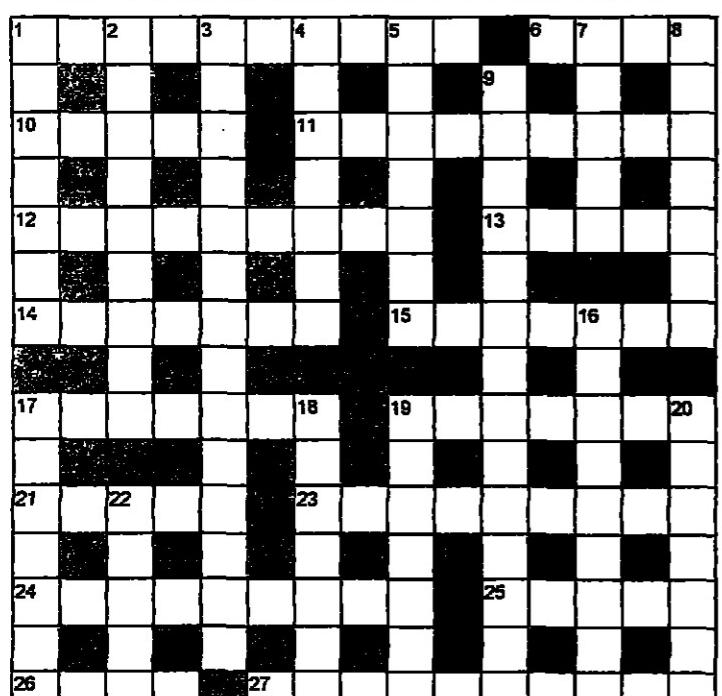
Jennifer Jason Leigh, right, stars in *eXistenZ*, another David (Crash) Cronenberg musing on the blurring of fantasy and reality

## ■ BOOKS

Christopher Hitchens's Washington stories fail to enthuse Peter Preston



## THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 21,089



- ACROSS**  
 1 Unfrocked monk is not behaving properly (3,2,5).  
 6 In France, we exhibit common sense (4).  
 10 Lay back, say, in midst of conflict (5).  
 11 Opening of film just unpleasant (9).  
 12 Repay insult in letter from abroad one afterwards sent back (9).  
 13 Store licensed to provide this souvenir (5).  
 14 Take up horn and set out (7).  
 15 Allowing little time for consideration (7).  
 17 Here and now (7).  
 19 Diaphragm, one doctor inserted in pet (7).  
 21 Emotional outburst, with love and exuberant enthusiasm (5).

- 23 Pound grew unexpectedly – it might have produced boom (9).  
 24 Old storage area's not full yet (5,4).  
 25 They can set you back, blue about marks (5).  
 26 Disposal of part of Manchester (4).  
 27 Show disapproval about invading country contrary to legislation (7-3).  
 DOWN  
 1 Where nurses are posted to the front (7).  
 2 For an acrobat, one's highly strung (9).  
 3 Universal? Precisely! (3,3,3).  
 4 Give up the burden (7).  
 5 English side needs a man of quality, and it's pressing (7).  
 7 Some lights, for instance, turned out – not quite every one (5).  
 8 Petition is, thus, within the law (7).  
 9 In a way, fortress we associated with Hood (8,6).  
 16 I'd laugh hysterically over lines in ceremonial building (9).  
 17 Air transport using one horsepower (7).  
 18 A tower of strength, in the main (7).  
 19 Chap attached to university, an American one, for free (7).  
 20 Warning observed, as expected (7).  
 22 Shed a little light (5).

Solution to Puzzle No 21,088



- OFFBEAM MAHOUTS  
 8 A L N O O A S G  
 SPEEDBOAT IMAGE  
 E B L I N T R E E C  
 SUDAN SPOT CHECK  
 S A S P C T U  
 M M E S I C O F P O T T A G E  
 S T A N N E N D  
 M A I N S F I E L D P A R K  
 A A I I N L N  
 S P O N G E B A G T H E R E  
 H I B R T A R E S W  
 H I D E R S T E R N M O S T  
 T R E E T E M C O  
 T R E P E C O S L A C K E R N

Times Two Crossword, page 48

## WEATHER INFORMATION

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 UK Roads - All regions 0236 441 410  
 Motorways 0236 441 250  
 P25 and Link Roads 0236 441 747  
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 Coastline Services 0236 441 252  
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 Wales 410 235 National Satellite Weather 410 297  
 East Anglia 410 310 Le East 410 240  
 Mersey 410 240 Murdoch Martin 410 206

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 153 destinations world wide  
 6 day forecast by fax (Index page)  
 0236 416 3232

**Motorway**  
 Europe Country by Country 0236 441 882  
 France 0236 441 883  
 French Motorways 0236 441 887  
 Seaport Information 0236 441 882  
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Not one  
for the  
feminists

Arts, page 36



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# THE TIMES

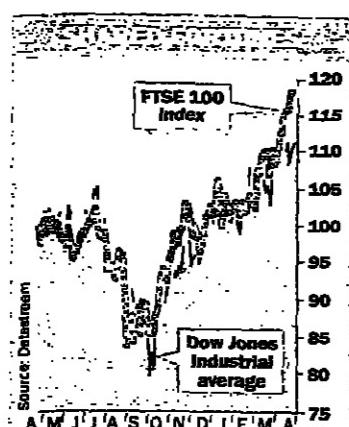
BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft

WEDNESDAY APRIL 28 1999

Business  
does  
PIRATE  
Arts, page 37

2

## Wall Street helps UK shares to record high



By ALASDAIR MURRAY  
ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

THE STOCK MARKET scored its fifth record close of the month yesterday buoyed by yet another strong performance on Wall Street.

Shares were also helped by further signs that the UK's manufacturing sector is beginning to turn the corner and an improved trade balance with non-EU countries.

The FTSE 100 index of leading shares closed up 90 points at 118.5, having earlier reached a new intra-day peak of 118.3.

The market was helped by an overnight rise in New York with the gains underpinned by a further rap-

id climb once Wall Street opened trading yesterday.

The Dow Jones industrial average stood up about 80 points by lunchtime in New York after better than expected quarterly results from AT&T, the telecoms giant.

In London banks and oil companies continued to fuel the stock market's rise after recent oil price rises and a series of positive banking trading statements. Traders said shares could see fresh highs in the next few days but gave warning that the market is now approaching the traditional May selling season.

The trade data, which was also published yesterday, raised new hopes that Britain's export performance may be beginning to improve.

The non-EU trade gap fell to £9.8 billion in March compared with £11.8 billion in February and well below City expectations of a £1.7 billion rise.

Although part of the improvement was due to a jump in exports of erratic, there was also a sharp rise in exports to the US and some signs that the export position in the Far East may be stabilising.

However, the overall trade gap in February decreased only marginally from January's record £2.73 billion deficit to £2.61 billion, leaving analysts saying that it was too early to conclude Britain's underlying trade position was on an improving trend.

There was particular concern that the trade deficit with EU countries in February ballooned to its largest levels since July 1990. Over the three months to February exports to EU countries fell by 3 per cent while those to non-EU countries were down 4 per cent on a quarterly comparison. Analysts said that with the pound maintaining high levels against the euro, a deterioration in the EU trade balance could hamper an improvement in the overall trade balance.

The separate Confederation of British Industry April industrial trends survey offered fresh evidence of a gentle recovery in the sector although manufacturers are shedding jobs at the fastest rate for six years. Confidence reached its highest levels in more than a year while order books declined at their slowest rate since last July. The export position also showed signs of improving although confidence in export orders over the next four months has slipped back again because of the latest rise in the pound.

Inflationary pressures remain very weak, with domestic prices again declining and unit costs falling at their fastest ever rate.

The CBI said subdued inflation in the sector suggested that the Bank of England could cut rates by a further quarter point to help to underpin the economic recovery.

## BSkyB chief quits to head Net venture

By RAYMOND SNODDY, MEDIA EDITOR

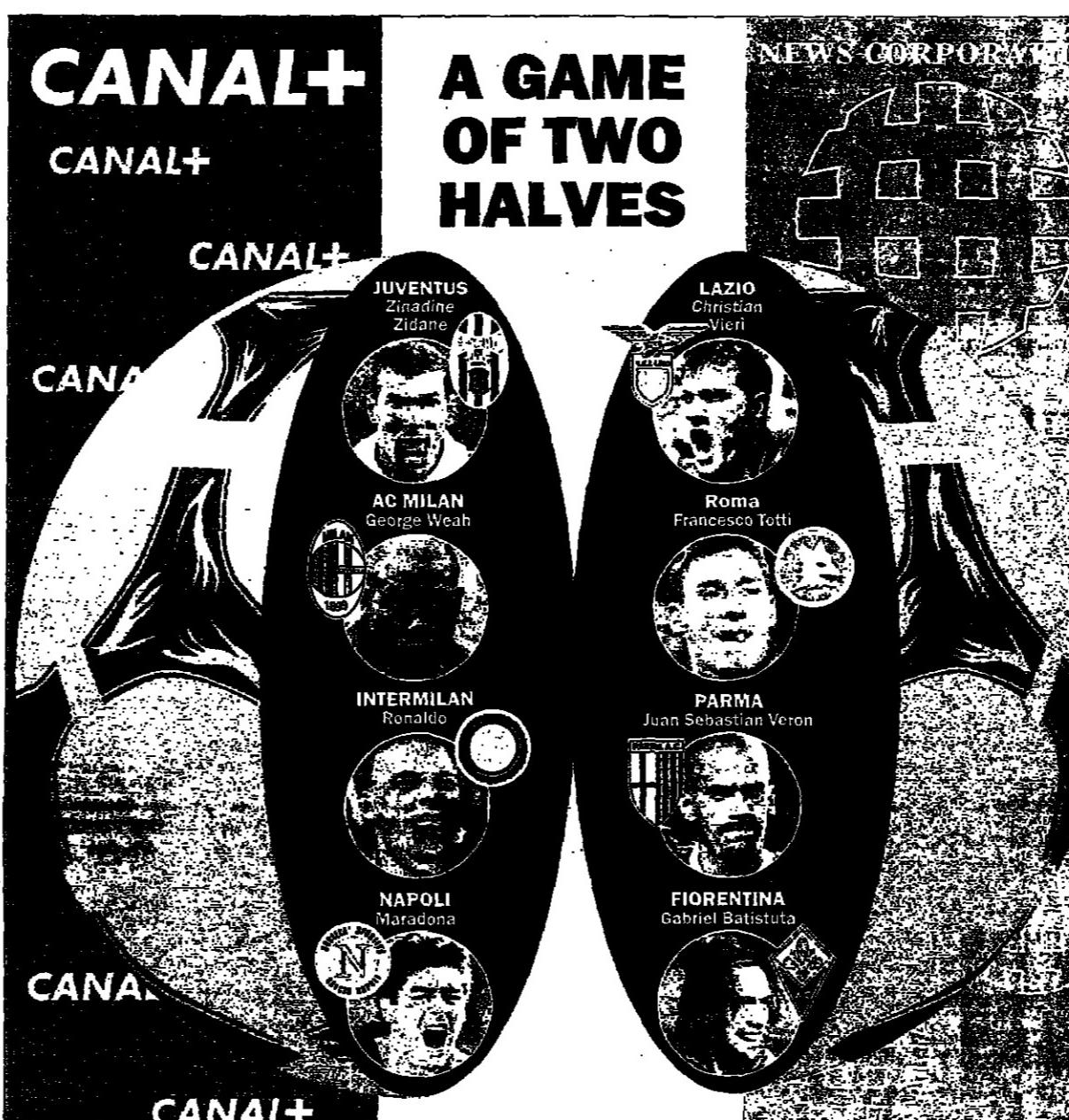
MARK BOOTH, the chief executive of British Sky Broadcasting, unexpectedly announced yesterday that he is to leave the satellite broadcaster. He has instead been enlisted to run a new media company, ePartners, set up by The News Corporation.

The surprise decision comes less than two years after Mr Booth was chosen as the successor to Sam Chisholm and a little more than six months after the successful launch of the SkyDigital service.

Mr Booth's move was triggered by an offer from Microsoft, the world's largest software company, to head all its Internet businesses. Mr Booth, who first came to the UK to run MTV Europe, was offered share options that could eventually be worth \$100 million to join Microsoft.

Jerome Seydoux, chairman of BSkyB, which is 40 per cent owned by News Corp., the ultimate parent company of *The Times*, told Mr Booth he could not stand in the way of such an offer.

Fearing of Mr Booth's intention to move, Rupert Murdoch, chairman and chief executive of News Corp. began negotiations to attract Mr Booth to join News Corp., which has been looking for ways to increase its Internet presence in recent months. BSkyB said that Mr Murdoch asked for and was given per-



## News Corp takes Italian stake

By JASON NISSE

THE NEWS CORPORATION yesterday gained a foothold in the Italian pay-television market and simultaneously became embroiled in the battle for Telecom Italia when it struck a deal for the media rights of four Serie A football clubs.

News Corp has agreed to buy a 35 per cent stake in Stream, the loss-making digital television operator set up by Telecom Italia. Cecchi Gori, the Italian media group, will take an 18 per cent stake while another 12 per cent stake is being sold to Società Diritto Sportivo, a company set

up by four top Italian football clubs — Roma, Lazio, Parma and Fiorentina — to market their media rights.

The four clubs have also agreed a deal, said to be worth more than £1 billion (£340 million), to sell their pay-television broadcasting rights for the next six seasons to Stream.

Olivetti, the computer group, which has said it will table a £40 billion bid for Telecom Italia later this month, said the sale of Stream was aimed at obstructing its bid. Telecom Italia formally rejected the Olivetti offer last night.

No figures were revealed for the Stream deal yesterday.

However, Telecom has said

having agreed to merge with Deutsche Telekom last week.

The decision by News Corp. and the football clubs to buy into Stream follows the deal struck last year by Telepui, the Italian digital television service owned by Canal Plus, the French media group. It signed up the pay-television rights of some of the leading clubs including Juventus, AC Milan, Internazionale and Napoli for five years, paying about £750 million.

No figures were revealed for the Stream deal yesterday.

However, Telecom has said

that up to £2 trillion needs to be invested in the digital service to enable it to compete with Telepui.

Earlier this year talks between News Corp and Telecom Italia, which would have led to News Corp buying an 80 per cent stake in Stream, broke down after intervention by the Italian Government.

Yesterday's deal, however,

appears to have been given the green light by Vincenzo

Vita, Italy's Communications

Under Secretary yesterday.

Business of sport, page 29

## Brazil fears resurface with bank scandal

By GABRIELLA GAMINI  
IN RIO DE JANEIRO  
AND ALASDAIR MURRAY

BRAZIL'S fragile financial markets were facing a renewed crisis yesterday after the former Governor of the Brazilian Central Bank was arrested after his refusal to testify following allegations of insider dealing.

Francisco Lopes is under investigation over claims that two private banks

were tipped off about the Government's plans to devalue the Brazilian currency, the real. In January, Salvatore Caccia — owner of Banco Marca — who has been implicated in the scandal — and has apparently admitted he had a paid informant at the central bank who helped the banks to make huge profits purchasing US dollars at highly favourable rates.

A police raid on Senator Lopes's home has also turned up documents

showing he had deposited \$1.6 million in an overseas bank account using someone else's name. Only hours before Senator Lopes's arrest, Pedro Malan, the Finance Minister, had declared an official end to the financial crisis, which had threatened to plunge the country into a full-scale recession.

The Brazilian stock market yesterday followed up Monday's 2 per cent slide with further losses. The real also slipped back to 1.72 to the dollar, al-

though it remains well off the record lows set in the weeks immediately after the devaluation.

Senator Lopes, sacked after just three weeks as Governor of the Central Bank, was arrested after refusing to testify under oath to the Senate Committee.

Analysts are worried that Senator Lopes's refusal to testify may be an attempt to hide a more far-reaching corruption scandal involving senior members of the Government.

## Egg hatches plan to Net customers

EGG, the direct banking arm of Prudential, plans to attract two million Internet customers over the next five years. Mike Harris, chief executive, said yesterday (Paula Hawkins writes).

From today, Egg will only accept savings account applications sent over the Net, although existing customers will still be able to complete transactions and open accounts by telephone or post. When the bank introduces individual savings accounts (Isas) at the end of this year, it is likely that these will be sold online only.

Egg has already hit its first five-year target, set just seven months ago, attracting £5 billion in savings and 500,000 customers.

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Booth: News Corp post

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- Email
- Leased Lines
- Secure Transactions
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A n identity crisis has hit Kingfisher. Just as the company is trying to engineer a merger with Asda, on the basis of their shared concentration on low prices, Sir Geoff Mulcahy forms a partnership to put Kingfisher alongside names such as Christian Dior and Moët & Chandon.

Perhaps Sir Geoff and Bernard Arnault have been flirting over the Worldwide Web for months and found that, beneath their apparent differences, they do have much in common. Perhaps the ordinary folk in France all covet the chic of a Givenchy gown while having to settle for a cut-price personal stereo from Darty. On both counts, however, there is room for doubt.

The undeniable fact is that in his home territory, Sir Geoff's long-term rival, Sir Stanley Kains, has pulled off a stunning coup. Over the years, Dixons and Kingfisher have each failed to take over the other as their electrical chains have slugged it out on the high street. But Dixons's Reserve has added billions to the value of the company in just a few months. Where is Comet's response? The answer is that it is coming soon, but in France, where it can emulate Dixons's claim to be first into the marketplace. And Kingfisher has been persuaded that M Arnault has

the Internet expertise to get Libertiesurf up and running before that pioneering position is lost. For that expertise, Sir Geoff is sacrificing control of his new enterprise. Sir Stanley can bask in all the earnings that Reserve may — or may not — yield. Kingfisher can look forward to just 40 per cent of the potential rewards.

The stock market was not in the mood to carp, awarding Kingfisher shares the Internet bounce yesterday. Yet deals involving the mercantile M Arnault are not always as they seem. His efforts to gain control of companies without paying the full price have now become a habit. Whether it is a vineyard or a fashion house, his tactics are not those that would endear him to the Takeover Panel.

Sir Geoff is not one to rush into deals. His procrastination has, on occasion, even lost him deals, most recently the Freemans mail order business. Maybe he has M Arnault's measure and will prove a match for his tactics. But that could be time-consuming.

There is no doubt that businesses like Kingfisher need to be on the Web and that they will, in-

## The French connection



### COMMENTARY by our City Editor

creasingly be selling their wares without benefit of expensive high street stores. The Prudential's Egg gave a further pointer to the increasingly important role of the Internet yesterday, announcing that it will be the single route by which new Egg accounts may be opened. Libertiesurf may prove to be a shoppers' paradise for those with eclectic tastes and fat wallets. But it looks hastily run up rather than couture.

#### Don't consign gold to the scrapheap

F or all the wars, financial collapses and local hyperinflations, the dollar price of gold has fallen by a third in the past three years. Even when interest rates are historically low and the euro is shedding cents like a moulting canary, the metal

that held the world financial system together until the 1970s is as old-hat as a bowler hat.

No wonder a consensus is developing rapidly for the International Monetary Fund to sell gold from its 100 million ounce hoard to help to fund debt write-offs in the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries initiative. Britain and Japan have upped the proposed sale from five million to ten million ounces. That would still be worth \$2.8 billion and the implication is that more will be swapped for interest-bearing assets in future.

At one go, the slow process of debt relief will be accelerated and modernising monetary class warriors will strike another blow at the old enemy. Gold will be further demonised and reduced to the status of a common commodity, like Brent crude, pork bellies or Chinese whole ginger futures.

Only Germany among the

Group of Seven is now conservative enough to be worried. As Bundesbank influence fades, however, even Germany is coming to concede that the matter must be considered, even if agreement and action have been put off for six months, along with the much-criticised debt plan.

Germany says that its anxieties are only about the side-effects of IMF gold sales. The principle of debt relief is agreed, if not the method and scope. In any case, the IMF will need to husband its resources better if it is to turn the new emergency loan facility into reality and avoid a repeat of the domino Asian crash.

Surely, however, Germany is right to be cautious about debunking gold altogether. If Russia is ever to steady its economy, stabilise its currency, become creditworthy and a full member of the Group of Eight, it will only

do so by mobilising its gold production for use both as currency backing and debt collateral. Others will follow suit.

Gold will never rule the world again, but should play a bigger monetary role in the first decades of the new millennium than in the dying decades of the old.

#### Mirror may shine on its own

W hile the Competition Commission decides

whether or not Regional Independent Media or Trinity should be allowed to take over Mirror Group, the market may intervene.

The ousting of David Montgomery was a messy business but, three months on, his successor, John Allwood, has settled into the role and Mirror is no longer looking quite so vulnerable. The share price has moved upwards to a level that might begin to make a contested bid tough for Trinity and almost impossible for unquoted RIM.

The market may be as good a

judge of what is right for Trinity as the renamed, but not restructured, former Monopolies Commission. The four-member panel charged with pronouncing on the proposed bids for Mirror has drawn up a list of the issues it believes to be relevant, including the ability of a regional newspaper company successfully to manage national newspapers.

Who will be determining the answer? Well, the panel is led by Denise Kingsmill, famed as a lawyer but less well-known as a non-executive director of struggling store group MFI. Industry expertise will be provided by one Professor Donald Trelford, whose reign as editor and then chief executive of *The Observer* would hardly be categorised as a commercial triumph.

#### Balkan question

A SIGN of the times. The World Bank, reacting swiftly to events in the Balkans, has earmarked \$70 million in aid for Macedonia and Albania, the main states affected, to cope with the influx of half a million refugees. That is clearly a great deal of money. Indeed, it is nearly as much as Microsoft offered to Mark Booth, chief executive of BSkyB, as a golden hello to manage its Internet operations. Mr Booth has, however, received a more attractive offer closer to home.

### Anti-age drug in tests

PHYTOPHARM, the company seeking to develop medicines from plants, thinks it may have stumbled on the secret of eternal youth (Paul Durman writes).

It is testing a compound that appears to reverse the ageing process, at least in the brains of aged rats. The discovery initially offers a possible treatment for Alzheimer's disease and age-related memory disorders.

Phytopharm is already talking to three multinational drug companies about PSS, and, despite its potential value, plans to license it at an early stage.

Phytopharm reported interim losses reduced by a third to £1.4 million.

## Acorn to vanish in break-up deal

BY CHRIS AYRES

ACORN, one of the best-known British computer brands of the 1980s, is to disappear from the stock market in a complex break-up deal worth nearly £270 million.

The deal will earn Morgan Stanley Dean Witter, the investment bank which orchestrated it, an estimated £45 million fee before costs.

Acorn's demise was precipitated by the enormous success of ARM Holdings, the microchip designer created and nurtured by Acorn and floated separately on the stock market in April last year.

The value of ARM, which designs microchips for mobile phones and other electronic gadgets, has rocketed from just £264 million on flotation

to more than £1.3 billion today. Before yesterday's deal was announced, Acorn's 24 per cent stake in ARM was worth £120 million, while Acorn's stock market value was just £25.5 million. Acorn, advised by Close Brothers, decided that yesterday's break-up deal was the best way "to return value to shareholders".

The deal took the form of a £270 million takeover bid from Morgan Stanley, and will see Acorn shareholders receive two ARM shares for every five in Acorn. Morgan Stanley will be left with an estimated seven million ARM shares, worth an estimated £8 million.

Shares in Acorn rose 94p to 2544p yesterday, while shares in ARM fell 325p to 665p.

As part of yesterday's deal

Acorn's set-top box business

### Primark in £20m store deal

PRIMARK, the fashion chain run by Associated British Foods, has agreed to buy ten of the Living department stores being closed by Co-operative Retail Services (CRS) (Fraser Nelson writes).

It is understood to have paid about £20 million. They are being bought from Miller Developments, the Scottish private construction company which on Monday paid £69 million for all 46 Living stores.

The move will raise hopes of about 350 of Living's 1,500 workers who are facing redundancy after the CRS decided to pull out of everything except groceries.

Primark, which is based in Dublin, runs 97 stores across the UK and Ireland with ten in the London area.

## Diageo acts to sell Cinzano

BY DOMINIC WALSH

CINZANO, the vermouth famously spun by Leonard Rositer on Joan Collins's dress in a series of TV ads, has been put up for sale as part of a clear-out of non-core drinks brands by Diageo.

The food and drink group has appointed Warburg Dillon Read, the investment bank to canvass interest in Cinzano together with three of its brands — Metaxa of Greece, Asbach of Germany and Italy's Vecchia Romagna.

The four brands made a combined profit last year of £60 million and are valued by analysts at anywhere between £50 million and £500 million. Obscure

Canandaigua Brands, the US group that recently acquired Matthew Clark and the recently formed joint venture between Highland Distillers and Rémy Cointreau as possible bidders.

### Prestwick shares suspended

SHARES in Prestwick Holdings, the troubled electronics company, were suspended yesterday on the London Stock Exchange pending clarification of its financial position (Matthew Barbour writes). A further announcement is expected tomorrow. The group, which manufactures printed circuit boards, said a deterioration in trading conditions had led to "significant" cash-flow problems. The suspension at 1315 follows a profit warning at the end of February, in which the group said losses would continue into the second half of the year because of a slump in orders. The shares have fallen from a high of 60p last year.

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STOCK MARKET

MICHAEL STAPLES

# Record close for FTSE on back of US recovery

SHARE prices briefly breached the 6,600 level for the first time on the way to chalking up another record-breaking close.

Inspired by the overnight recovery on the Dow Jones industrial average and fresh opening gains in New York yesterday, leading shares in London enjoyed another inspired recovery.

At its best, the FTSE 100 index reached a new peak of 6,635.9 before closing 90.0 up at 6,593.6.

Demand was clearly concentrated among blue chips with the FTSE 250 index only 20.1 up at 5,808.7. The total number of shares traded reached 1.09 billion.

It was a red letter day for Lord Hollick, chairman of United News & Media, publisher of the *The Express*, as he watched the price rise 38p to 66p on the back of Monday's bullish annual meeting statement.

Yesterday's rise was also backed up by HSBC Securities, which has raised its recommendation from "hold" to "trading buy". It has also set a target price of 725p. Merrill Lynch is another big fan of the shares, lifting its recommendation from "accumulate" to "trading buy", while Henderson Crosthwaite has reiterated its "buy" stance.

Telecom shares remained in favour with stock shortages exaggerating the gains. British Telecom surged 42p to 10.39, reflecting the group's decision to join up with AT&T and buy a 30 per cent stake in Japan Telecom. Credit Suisse First Boston, the broker, is bracing itself for strong revenue growth from BT in the final quarter. Most estimates are pitched at between 7 per cent and 8 per cent, while CSFB thinks the figure could be nearer 12 per cent.

West LB Panmure, the broker, expects great things from Rolls-Royce, up 83p at 294p, and has reiterated its "buy" stance on the shares.

Allied Domecq shopped 8p to 515p ahead of results tomorrow. There have been vague whispers that LVMH may be considering a bid for the drinks group. However, sources close to LVMH dismissed the suggestion. LVMH continues to hold a 7 per cent stake in Diageo, up 30p to 7185p, after confirmation that it has put four drinks brands up for sale which brokers say could fetch



Lord Hollick saw United News & Media surge 38p after Monday's bullish statement and support from brokers

at least £350 million. It has also sold four ouzo brands.

An upbeat trading statement lifted Vickers 8p to 171p. Shareholders were told at the annual meeting that volumes in the first quarter were well above the level achieved during the comparable period last year.

Silvermines stood out with a jump of 75p at 385p as speculators gambled on the prospect

of a management buy-out. Clem Jansen, former chief executive, has already offered 47p a share, which was rejected by Bob Morton, chairman, and the closed-circuit television manufacturer's biggest shareholder. At the same time, TT Group continues to hold 6 per cent of the shares and may choose to make a full bid if its own. Silvermines tried to play

down the speculation by pointing out that no formal offer had been received.

Takeover favourite Mountford Oil & Gas receded another 4p to 465p despite the recovery in the oil price. Recently its name was linked with rivals Lasmo, 10p dearer at 1495p, and Enterprise Oil, 25p lighter at 4315p. Both companies moved to play down the speculation.

Swallow held steady at 320p despite her room buster at NH Hotels, the Spanish group that has just pulled out of bid talks with Jarvis Hotels, may be interested in its hotels.

The breakdown in merger talks with Regent Inns, up 5p at 196p, has provided investors with a fresh opportunity to buy shares in SFI Group, up 3p at 2064p. That is the conclusion of Charterhouse, the broker. SFI's record remains impressive in a competitive marketplace, it says.

A broker's recommendation lifted Premier Farmland to its best level this year with a rise of 145p to 263p. Merrill Lynch, the broker, has raised its recommendation from "neutral" to "accumulate". The group saw its price tumble from a peak of 4404p last year, after a profits warning. Merrill maintains the electric components group is now on the road to recovery.

Further reflection of Monday's trading news hoisted BATM Advanced Communications 113p to 6084p. Traders will only make a price in 1,000 shares at a time and stock shortages are inclined to exaggerate price movements.

Young Holdings rose 14p to 595p. The price has been depressed by an overhang of stock in the marketplace after M&G unloaded a sizeable stake.

**GILT-EDGED:** Bond prices in London frittered away an early lead as the equity market continued to build up a full head of steam. Prices saw losses at either end of the yield curve.

In the futures pit, the June series of the long gilt finished unchanged at £16.46 as the total number of contracts traded reached 28,000.

In longs, Treasury 8 percent 2021 dropped 42p to £146.03, while in shorts Treasury 7 percent 2002 shed 11p to £105.85.

**NEW YORK:** Positive earnings reports boosted share prices in late morning trade. By midday the Dow Jones Industrial average was up 58.99 at 10,777.58.

and secondly, they have different focus," he warns.

Unless the brewers can restore that focus and improve returns, a further deterioration of the sector is likely.

Whitbread, 145p better at £10.34, is furthest down the road in terms of separating its beer and pub retailing operations and is seen as a "buy".

But the strategic routes of Bass, up 275p at 980p, and Scottish & Newcastle, 105p better at 778p, remain unclear and only rate a "market perform".

LOSING focus is a common complaint among drinkers after one too many.

But BT Alex Brown, the broker, says this is also a complaint afflicting investors, especially those investing in the big brewers.

Britain's brewers have delivered earnings growth in line with the market, but have been aggressively de-rated, says Graeme Eadie at BTAB.

"Investors seem to dislike their diversification strategies for two reasons. Firstly, they have held back returns.

which brokers say could fetch

average listed prices at present levels on April 27.

(Official) (Volume prev day)

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**B**arday Knapp must be splitting feathers. Only days after he decided that there was no chance of success for the £160 million bid for Newcastle United, tabled by NTL, his cable group, an almost identical deal has taken place across the Channel.

Bordeaux, which frightened the life out of many of the European big boys with its run in the Uefa Cup a couple of years ago, and has nurtured stars such as Zinedine Zidane, Bixente Lizarazu and Christophe Dugarry, has been bought by a consortium of the French TV group, M6, and CLT-UFA, which is jointly owned by German publishing giant Bertelsmann and Albert Frere, the Belgian financier. The companies will take a 67 per cent stake in Bordeaux, and then gradually exert their influence in a deal worth about £25 million — so nicking Bordeaux from the clutches of Eric, the football investment group, which has also recently failed in attempts to buy Tottenham Hotspur and Wembly.

In the UK, where NTL's decision to withdraw was prompt-

ed by the regulatory blocking of BSkyB's purchase of Manchester United, the concept of media groups owning football clubs is well established in France. Canal Plus, the satellite television group, owns Paris St Germain — which is made up of not only a football club but also a rugby and basketball team — while Pathé, which has a stake in BSkyB, controls Lyon. By sheer coincidence, Canal Plus has the rights to pay-per-view football in France.

And it is not just in France that media companies and football clubs share owners. Silvio Berlusconi, who owns Italy's leading commercial television company, has owned AC Milan for more than a decade. No one in Italy has complained about this as Berlusconi has bankrolled Milan's purchase of almost every top player in Europe, from Marco van Basten to

Andrei Shevchenko, Dynamo Kiev's £20 million star striker.

Earlier this week, at the Football Forum conference in Zurich, Umberto Gandi, Milan's managing director, explained that Berlusconi views Milan as a part of his entertainment empire. "It is like we are putting on a film each week," he said. "We want the best actors for the show. The supporters can view it in different ways. They can go to the San Siro [Milan's ground], which is like going to the cinema. They can watch it on pay-per-view TV or they can buy videos of the game for their memories." Milan is in the group of teams that has struck pay-per-view deals with Tele Plus, a subsidiary of Canal Plus.

A hundred miles to the south of Milan, Fiorentina, another top team, is controlled by the Cecchi Gori group. And what does Cecchi

News Corp will have 35 per cent of this venture, while Cecchi Gori will have 18 per cent directly and 3 per cent through Fiorentina. In this case not only are the media companies owning the teams, but the teams are also owning the media companies.

many, as in the UK, the debate centres on whether the teams should strike deals as a league or go it alone. Bayern Munich, the leaders of the Bundesliga and the country's largest club, wants to strike its own deal.

No German teams are owned by media groups, but CLT-UFA has pumped quite a bit of money into Borussia Dortmund, which won the European Cup two years ago, while Bayer Leverkusen, which is controlled by the Bayer chemical company, is close to striking a deal with a "strategic partner". You can bet your bottom dollar it will be a media company.

□ ANOTHER interesting development in Europe is the near bankruptcy of the Swiss league, where quite a few of the top teams are close to insolvency thanks to overpaying for overrated players. A di-

rector of FC Lausanne complained to me about its debts of SwFr 2.5 million (about £1 million).

This is as nothing to the £22 million owed by Crystal Palace. I replied. Indeed, £1 million is how much Simon Patterson, the administrator from Moore Stephens Booth White, now running Palace, has been given to keep the club running over the summer.

Many football experts wonder whether this is enough. Buchler Phillips, the firm originally asked to be administrators, said it would have to have £1.6 million to keep the club alive.

The cash is needed because Palace will have no income between mid-May and mid-August, apart from advance payments for season tickets.

However, this season ticket money cannot be touched by the administrators until it has agreed a deal with its £8 million worth of "football creditors" — mainly teams owed transfer fees — because if it does not pay those debts then the Football League will not allow it to play next season.

## Football ownership is goal of media

### BUSINESS

By Jason Nissé

Gori do? Yes, television and publishing. Indeed Cecchi Gori yesterday announced that it is joining with The News Corporation, the ultimate parent company of the *The Times* and 40 per cent shareholder in BSkyB, and four top football teams — Lazio, Roma, Parma and, of course, Fiorentina — to take control of Stream, Telecom Italia's pay-per-view rival to Tele Plus.

This is certainly the case in Germany, where there is a dispute

about the pay-per-view televising of matches. The dispute is essentially about the number of games that will be shown for free and how much the Kirsch organisation, which is the main player, is willing to pay for games. In Ger-

**L**abour could end up paying to keep European pensioners in comfort, warns Charles Dumas

**F**ew subjects turn off younger readers faster than pensions, but a low boredom threshold could be lethally expensive.

People who are now young will be generating the income that will pay for the coming pensions explosion. How it is financed will be crucially important. In this country, the political minefield of pension reform has effectively seen Harriet Harman and Frank Field — who was charged with "thinking the unthinkable" — lose their place in the Labour Government. Alistair Darling, the nearest thing new Labour has to a "safe pair of hands", is currently wrestling with the problem. But the real danger on pensions is not from within the UK — it is from Europe.

Current political developments in Europe mean that the pensions time bomb is more likely than ever to mean higher taxation. If Britain is not vigilant, our taxpayers will be co-opted into funding the much more lavish government-financed schemes on the Continent, where private pensions are insignificant.

If Britain adopts the euro, and joins economic and monetary union, vigilance will not be enough. Majority voting on taxes within euroland, with an end to the veto on tax issues, is a racing certainty before the time bomb goes off — which will be a decade or more into the next century.

The ageing of the population will raise the burden of all public pension schemes in Europe over the next 30 years. By 2030, the cost will be about half as much again as a percentage of national income, compared with now. The difference is that in Britain our public pensions are some 7 to 8 per cent of total output, but in Germany, France and Italy the ratio is two and a half times this, about 17 per cent. By contrast, British private



Alistair Darling is negotiating the political minefield of Britain's pensions reform, but the real danger is from Europe

pension schemes have accumulated funds equal to three quarters of national output. In Germany this ratio is 15 per cent, in France 6 per cent, and in Italy just 3 per cent.

Public pension costs will rise by a manageable 4 per cent of output in Britain by 2030, with most of the increase in the past ten years. This is well within the range of variance of government spending over long periods. On the Continent, the corresponding increase in public pensions spending will be about 10 per cent of total output.

Not only is this a huge increase, but it will be triggered earlier, and is added to levels of public spending (and taxes) that are already far higher than here. Against Britain's public spending ratio of 40 per cent of total output, Germany's is 46 per cent, Italy's 50 per cent and France's 54 per cent.

Public pensions are paid from general taxation on a current basis, not out of invested funds accumulated over the working life of the pensioner. The chief source of increased

pensions in Britain will be payouts from privately accumulated funds. On the Continent, the alternatives are four: reducing entitlements, meaning people well into their working careers would be forced to accumulate the difference through higher savings; government borrowing; reducing spending on other government programmes; and higher taxes.

The first of these was largely adopted in Britain over the past 20 years, at a time when the more benign age distribution of the population made it easier. The "baby-boomers" were about 30 years old in 1980 — now they are 50.

Tentative efforts to curb entitlements began on the Continent in the Nineties, but not much progress was made.

The advent of socialist/social democrat Governments in

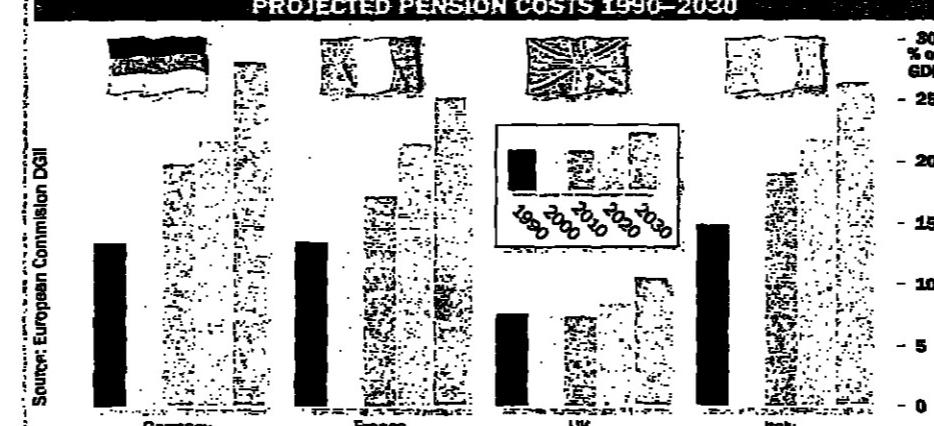
Germany, France and Italy over the past two years has eliminated the pressure for reform. As well as disliking such a politically explosive issue, they believe public pension provision is right. They also have no great enthusiasm for the "Anglo-Saxon" shareholder capitalism that is necessary where the general public relies heavily on privately funded pensions.

That leaves higher taxes. But this is the ultimate "stealth tax", as the problem does not get too much larger for ten years or so. Meanwhile, the avowedly federalist euroland governments will return again and again to the issue of tax harmonisation. In extreme form, this would force convergence of public spending ratios as well. After all, it could be argued, it is not unfair competition for the British economy to be operating with a lower burden of public spending than our continental partners?

The route to majority voting on euroland tax issues is clear. The majority of continental politicians are explicitly committed to establishing a federal European state. If Britain accepts this, our taxes will be increasing for the remainder of most of our lifetimes.

The logical follow-up would be to adopt continental public pensions schemes as well — then at least our taxes would go to British pensioners. So with the pensions time bomb fuse already lit, EMU envy would mean "Goodbye new Labour, welcome back old socialists."

Charles Dumas is head of the international service at Lombard Street Research



## Lack of trust

**T**HE trade body for the investment trust world has tied itself into a tangled knot over a report from one of its members that is highly critical of a controversial new £27 million advertising campaign.

The new campaign, from the ad man who brought you "Tell Sid", has split an industry not exactly known for vicious internecine feuding. Big names such as Fleming and Foreign & Colonial are backing the ads, which should run in the autumn.



But others are worried that generic advertising might not work. Worse, you could be spending money on boosting sales of rivals.

This view has been given a fillip by a report circulating from Aberdeen Asset Managers, which claims there is not much point in merely "raising awareness" if it doesn't sell more investment trusts.

The campaign is the idea of the Association of Investment Trust Companies, whose director-general, Daniel Godfrey, at first insisted that no such report exists.

I explain that I am reading it as we speak. "If that's the case, I'm disappointed."

**A**N UNACCUSTOMED note of political correctness on the menu at the Gay Hussar, the flamboyant Hungarian restaurant in Soho. Chicken la Serb has been discreetly withdrawn. But I am told it is still available on request.

**C**hurch militant BOARD members of British Aerospace already putting on the shin pads for today's annual meeting might like to know that the woman who almost single-handedly landed them in their latest spot of ethical

bother will be there again. Marian Peterson, wife of a retired vicar living in Southend, first brought to the attention of the Church of England's investment authorities the fact that they would end up with a sizeable holding in BAe after the purchase of GEC Marconi Electronics.

As a result the Church has decided to dump the two million-plus shares in BAe because of a blanket ban on investments in companies where weapons are a significant part of their business.

Peterson, who was also at last year's troubled BAe annual meeting and was one of the few protesters not thrown out by security men, is modest about her contribution.

"I suppose I set it in motion, but it

was by no means single-handed," she tells me. "I'm a very small player. It was an action whose time had come." Hogg whipped out his paper and replied "880p". "It can't be," said Leschly, correctly. "It must be 880p." Wrong big figure. An adviser admitted later: "The gadget worked perfectly. His eyesight's going."



### Re-tuning

MID-LIFE crises and abrupt changes of direction are becoming contagious in the City. We've had monks and vicars. Now Philip Lambert, 39-year-old head of energy and utilities at Dresdner Kleinwort Benson, is off to become a composer and concert pianist.

Lambert first tried for a career in music in his 20s but soon tired of starving in a garret and became an oil analyst instead. After 13 years he has accumulated enough capital to pursue his earlier dream.

"I want to go and see if there is another life," he tells me. This will involve composing pieces for piano "which don't sound like plagiarised Chopin".

He remains a realist, though. "If I find that my first concert is only attended by my wife, my mother and my dog, I may feel it is time to start Lambert Oil."

JAN LESCHLY, the monstrously well-rewarded chief executive of SmithKline Beecham, was keen to quote the company's share price to shareholders at yesterday's meeting. He turned to Sir Christopher Hogg, a non-executive, who happens to be chairman of Reuters.

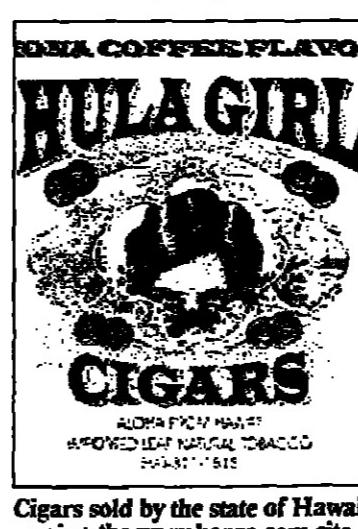
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### Brand off

BERNARD ARNAULT has come a bit late to the Internet — and it shows. Arnault has been trying to get his various brand names "dot-commed" as they say in the industry, registered so no one else can use them.

Dior, Lacoste, Givenchy — all locked up solid. But one has evaded him. The state of Hawaii has nabbed www.kenz.com, and is holding firm. It is used to advertise a range of products including, as you see, cigars.

MARTIN WALLER  
city.diary@the-times.co.uk



## BUSINESS NEWS 29

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## SB shareholders kept purring by 'fat cat' Leschly

**T**hey came not to bury

Jan Leschly, but to praise him. There were more wisecracks than bricks.

Sir Peter warned shareholders not to believe everything in the papers about executive pay. He said his own package was reported to be £755,000 — but this included the £60,000 shares he bought during his ten years with the company.

"The journalist might as well have put in the value of my house," said Sir Peter.

The £93 million total initially placed on Mr Leschly's benefits from SB included his £11 million shareholding. Mr Leschly was paid £1.9 million in 1998, less than in 1997. The balance of £81 million is made up of a plethora of option and incentive share schemes.

**M**ost of the SB shareholders at the meeting can afford to take a relaxed view of rewards on this scale. As Sir Peter pointed out, SB shares have risen by an average of 41 per cent a year since Mr Leschly and his team took over in 1994.

Sir Peter ducked the most pointed questions he received, from Stuart Bell of PIRC, the pension fund advisers. He said SB had so far decided it was "not appropriate" to put the report of its remuneration committee to a separate vote.

And he was reduced to incoherence when asked why executive incentives were awarded against performance against the relatively undemanding standards of the FTSE 100, rather than the much tougher benchmark set by international drug companies, the same peers SB uses to set pay levels.

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#### **SUPERVISION SERVICE**

Ever feel you're missing out on marketing news?

On the 40th anniversary of the Marketing Society, Alan Mitchell looks at the potential of e-commerce...

# Now selling on a screen near you

The marketing profession has ridden many waves of technological change, from the printing press to radio and television. But the revolution represented by satellite communications, cable, digital television and the Internet is unleashing faster changes than anything marketers have witnessed in the past 50 years.

Faced with proliferating ways of reaching their target audiences, marketers face a struggle to get across the right message to the right people at the right time at an acceptable cost. Efficiency pressures are triggering sometimes bitter debates about media inflation, marketing effectiveness and accountability, and the role of marketing departments.

Mr Evans, a senior vice-president in the Boston Consulting Group, echoes Mr Sorrell. "People are applying to this new medium the same kind of mental framework they have been using for 50 years. That is wrong."

Mr Evans says the new forms of information-led business do three new things. They separate the processing of information about products from the products themselves, helping people to search for, find and evaluate products independently of those who have a vested interest in selling them.

Secondly, they provide consumers with as much information about their sellers as marketers traditionally accumulate about their customers. "This is making for a much more level playing field," he says in his forthcoming book, *Blown to Bits*.

Thirdly, which help customers to search for the best choice of products and services; and "demand aggregators", which organise consumers to bargain as a single unit with suppliers over the price.

They also include auctioneers such as eBay, which put consumers directly in touch with each other; "intermediaries", which build up customer databases and use the information to broker matches between buyer and seller; and entities such as Buy.com, which uses products to sell advertising instead of using advertising to sell products — by selling products at below cost. Buy.com attracts millions of bargain hunters to its website, then makes its money by selling advertising to reach them.

These new breeds of business may be confined to the ether of e-commerce, but their

## Reverse marketing will require dramatic mindset shifts

they are creating a new dimension of competition between brands — a race for customer affiliation based on who most effectively acts in the customer's interests.

John Hagel, a McKinsey consultant and the author of *Net Worth*, says this "reverse marketing" will involve companies in "one of the most challenging mindset shifts they can go through". He draws a parallel with Gutenberg, who invented the printing press to help to spread the Bible to the masses, but ended up helping to spread heresy instead.

Likewise, most companies see e-commerce as a way of gaining an advantage relative to customers and other companies. But they are unleashing a set of forces that will dramatically strengthen customers' ability to deal with vendors.

Today's big brands are



With its interactive services, digital television will put viewers and consumers in the driving seat, but will present advertisers with a fragmented market

product or vendor-centric brands — statements about the quality or attributes of the product or vendor". In future "the most powerful brands will be customer-centric" — meaning that the brandholder will know the individual customer better, and use this knowledge to be "the customer's advocate or agent".

If reverse marketers establish themselves, the age-old marketing goal of aligning companies' offerings to changing customer requirements will become doubly critical. Yet Marketing Society research suggests that half of UK plc the customer's voice is "rarely, if ever, represented around the boardroom table". Stephen Callender, the society's chairman, finds this disturbing; it is the profession's job, he says, to keep its finger on the customer's pulse. When companies fail to do so, there are "many opportunities for things to go wrong".

Sky, in which News International — the parent group of *The Times* — has a 40 per cent stake, was so pleased by the reception that it upgraded its forecasts to one million digital subscribers by October, the end of the first year on air.

Earlier this month ONdigital, the main commercial digital terrestrial television service, announced its first numbers — 110,000 subscribers in the four months on air.

It has run an effective marketing campaign emphasising the main advantage of digital terrestrial — extra choice through the existing aerial.

Later this year the three big cable companies — NTL, Cable & Wireless Communications and Telewest — will all start offering digital services to their three million-plus subscribers.

One of the great advantages the cable companies will have

## Coming soon: video recorder that picks the programmes

launch a video recorder that recognises and cuts out advertising when programmes are recorded. The machine automatically pauses when the advertisements come on and resumes recording when they are over.

Then companies such as TiVo and Replay are about to launch systems in America that can digitally capture, store and index up to 40 hours of television favourites. The new recording devices can recognise viewing patterns and if *Men Behaving Badly* is a regularly viewed programme the machine will automatically record it in future.

The new devices are expected to retail at about £400 and like digital television, will have an electronic programme guide. This will enable viewers to choose immediately the genre of programmes — such as comedy or sport — in which they are most interested.

Such developments will open up fresh opportunities for the advertising and marketing community, although it will be difficult to find the right balance between the new niche and the old mass media market as the audience fragments across a larger and larger number of channels.

Although advertisers will have to be quick to follow

viewers with their messages, the likelihood is that most people will continue to watch the main terrestrial channels most of the time.

Early indications show that viewers are very positive about their new digital services and like the menu-driven way of selecting channels and programmes to watch.

But more channels and more choice is only one aspect of the digital revolution. Later this year more and more interactive services will be introduced, allowing home shopping, home banking and sending and receiving e-mails through the television set.

It signifies a move towards an on-demand world where

viewers and consumers will have the power to choose what they want to watch, when they want to watch it and how they want to watch it.

And all these developments are in addition to the speed of change in the Internet which will increasingly compete with television for the time and attention of users.

**RAYMOND SNODDY**

## Free services blow Net wide open

The scrapping of charges for Internet delivery has been a winner, says Michael Kavanagh

The launch of Freeserve, the free Internet access service, by Dixons Store Group last September, continues to cause aftershocks throughout Britain's Internet sector.

In a matter of weeks the service established itself as Britain's leading Internet service provider (ISP), simply by scrapping the £10 to £15 monthly subscription charges that were then common in the sector. Freeserve now claims to have 1.5 million users and has transformed Dixons into a stock market darling, turning on its head the "battle for eyeballs" among Britain's online media players.

Now the paid-for ISP brand Virgin Net has scrapped charges, along with BT ClickFree, originally launched as a premium-rate service.

This month *The Sun* newspaper (which has the same par-

ent company as *The Times*) launched its free ISP Currenti. Bun.com in its typically ebullient manner, while the Mirror Group has used its own promotional power to launch its "me-too" free ISP. This month MSN, the Microsoft-owned ISP, admitted that its subscriber base has dropped to 125,000 from 150,000 in January in the face of the onslaught by free ISPs.

Industry analysts and Internet users are now wondering for how long AOL, previously the UK's leading online service provider, can hold its nerve and continue subscription charges.

The real battle, says Mark Danby, the general manager of Freeserve, is over who can

establish themselves among a small number of operators expected to dominate the online audience — and consequently the fast-growing advertising and online retailing revenues in the UK market.

Charlie Dobres, the general secretary of the Internet Advertising Bureau UK, says: "We were already seeing rapid growth in the UK online audience, but there is no doubt that it has been given a big boost by the arrival of free ISPs."

The leading UK "portal" site, Yahoo! ([www.yahoo.co.uk](http://www.yahoo.co.uk)), Britain's busiest website, has also been drawn into promoting its own free ISP backed by BT, to try to protect its existing status as the top provider of UK eyeballs online. The

commercial imperative of remaking one of the Web's leading destinations was demonstrated in January by the \$6.7 billion takeover of Yahoo! arch-rival Excite by the American telecom group @home.

Rob Lawson, the associate director at NOP, the market research company, confirms that the growth of Internet access is beginning to affect retailing habits. NOP estimates that 1.3 million people shopped online in the second half of 1998, from among the 10.6 million people who used the Internet at home or work last year.

Richard Wheaton, the director of new media at the Carat ad agency, says that even if

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The stuff of marketing legend: the quirky Tango commercials break all the rules, but have paid off in increased sales



JEAN FRANCOIS PINKATZ PICTURES

Coffee break today's consumers are more demanding — they know what they want and they are prepared to pay for it

## Make marketing a state of mind

**T**he past few years have not been kind to marketing. Though it flourished during the heady days of the 1980s, the early 1990s saw marketing come under fire in a barrage of studies and surveys cataloguing the profession's supposed deficiencies.

Marketers were seen as arrogant, short-term players, who blithely ignored the realities of the bottom line.

Then, a year ago, the first signs that marketing could be making a comeback appeared. KPMG Management Consulting produced a report based on a survey of those companies that had been successful

in growing shareholder value. The findings were unequivocal: marketing was shown to be regarded as the key to competitiveness and long-term growth. It was viewed as a business-wide orientation, a means of getting the whole organisation focused on meeting customer needs rather than building larger marketing departments.

And this is the message that those banging the marketing drum in UK plc are trying to put across: that marketing has become a state of mind as well as a set of functional skills. Customer focus from the boardroom down is what counts. And good marketers

should be proving their worth by leading the charge.

Sir Michael Perry, the chairman of Centrica and formerly of Unilever, says: "One of Britain's greatest problems in the past few years has been that we have not focused as tightly as we should have on our customers."

"It might sound trite, but winning customer preference should be at the heart of every business. And that's not just about flogging things. It's about the whole basis on which products and services are put together, and how to beat the competition."

Sir Michael is also the chairman of the Marketing Council, set up under the auspices of Michael Heseltine when he was President of the Board of Trade. For the past few years it has been using what Sir Michael calls "every conceivable kind of platform" to make board directors appreciate the importance of customer focus.

One concept it has developed is that of pan-company marketing, or making everyone focus on customers. "Successful companies such as Unipart and Tesco have that philosophy right through their business," says Sir Michael. "It is an attitude of mind that starts with the chief executive."

What is important in this debate is to define what marketing means, says Tim Ambler. A senior fellow at London Business School, he is working with the Marketing Council to develop robust measures for marketing at all levels.

At the very top, marketing is what the company does. "Every company in the world has to make a turnover and that's how you do it," he says. Level two is what the marketing specialist does in terms of functional skills. Then there is the marketing budget, which is about promotion. In the field of promotion, for example, the strange ads for the soft drink Tango have become the stuff of marketing legend. Not only has their quirkiness paid off creatively and generated acres of headlines, but they have paid off in sales. That is because the owner of Tango, Brivitc, let its ad agency, HHCL & Partners, throw away the rule book

about how to advertise soft drinks. When it does work as it has with Tango it is marketing at its best.

Mr Ambler does see signs of boards beginning to take marketing seriously, although there is still some way to go. Research from the Marketing Society on how well boards listen to their customers makes dire reading. When asked whether the marketing function was specifically represented on the main board or the most senior board in the UK, 68 per cent said yes.

However, the bigger they are, the less chance for marketing: only 57 per cent of companies with sales in excess of £1 billion had marketing on the board.

Fewer than a third believed that the opinion of the customer was implemented at board level; more than 40 per cent said it was done rarely or not at all. This does not surprise Stephen Callender, the chairman of the Marketing Society and a partner in the marketing communications agency Black Cat.

He points to an analysis of FTSE chief executives carried out by *Management Today*, which showed that only 12 of the top 100 have marketing in their background.

The Marketing Society, 40 years old this year and with 3,600 senior marketers as members, wants to change that. It is becoming more active in championing marketing excellence, as well as carrying out its more traditional role of generating enthusiasm and interest among members for its wide range of events and programmes.

"We are keen to establish marketing as one of the key professions and disciplines that make business successful," says Mr Callender. "We do not feel it is recognised as being as important as it is."

"If the Government started to promote marketing to a greater degree, then business would do something about it. Promote marketing, boost innovation, and so by definition grow business success, which affects employment. It all fits together."

LAURA MAZUR

Get closer to your customer. This mantra of modern marketing is proving ever more difficult to put into action as new technologies threaten to turn traditional relationships between companies and customers upside down.

Consumers are responding to marketers' escalating blandishments by making themselves more elusive. Established classifications based on age, sex, class and income are losing their power as shoppers increasingly assert their own identity.

We are, the Future Foundation suggests in new research for First Direct, moving towards an "I" society, where consumers focus on "expressing individuality, being independent, both mentally and materially, and on finding new forms of fulfilment and sources of identity". They will simply refuse to fit into neat marketing boxes.

Indeed, among the trend-setting Tao Generation — as research group Synergy calls them — it has become positively cool to be contradictory. "Their overwhelming attitude is 'I just am who I am,'" says Pat Dade, a Synergy consultant. "Living with contradictions and actually welcoming new contradictions — that is where the fun is."

Researchers are finding this contradictory consumer everywhere. Marketing services giant Omnicom, for example, sees current consumer trends as a series of "paradoxes".

The populations of societies may be ageing, but eternal youth is the watchword even among "grays", notes Ira Matathia, an Omnicom futurist. Likewise, "going forward, we'll see the most effective marketing strategies meld the essence of nostalgia with the positive elements of futurism", she says.

**S**imilar contradictions have been identified by the Henley Centre in its Planning for Consumer Change project. In a world rendered coldly rational by the triumph of industry and science, consumers are searching for "re-enchantment", observes Stokes Jones, a Henley researcher.

Consumers want to put some magic back into their lives. Mr Jones believes people are yearning for a sense of community and for organisations and brands they can really trust. But that does not stop human beings being increasingly individualistic in their behaviour, and coldly instrumental in their dealings with companies.

Product quality and service levels may be improving, Mr Jones says, but consumers complain more — calculating that the more they complain, the more they get. Increasingly, their attitude towards marketers is: "If you want my attention, or information about me, you will have to pay me in some way for it."

Another contradictory trend is what Mr Jones calls "hedging hedonism". With declining job security and a retreating welfare state, we are increasingly aware that we have to provide for our own future and we are building nest eggs "just in case". Yet often we make these

## Customers out to buy time and pleasure

experiences for which customers are prepared to pay.

He says: "The history of economic progress consists of charging for what once was free. Instead of relying on our own wherewithal to experience the new and wondrous, we will increasingly pay companies to stage experiences for us, just as we now pay for services we once delivered ourselves, goods we once made ourselves and commodities we once extracted ourselves."

**T**he next step? To sell "transformations". What unites keep-fit, counselling, extreme sports, exotic holidays, new age mysticism, cosmetic surgery and a surging interest in education, Mr Jones suggests, is the search not just for experiences, but for things that change us.

Companies make products in factories. We, increasingly, make ourselves through the experiences we choose. Marketers could find selling "experiences" and "transformations" a huge opportunity.

ALAN MITCHELL



Focused: Sir Michael

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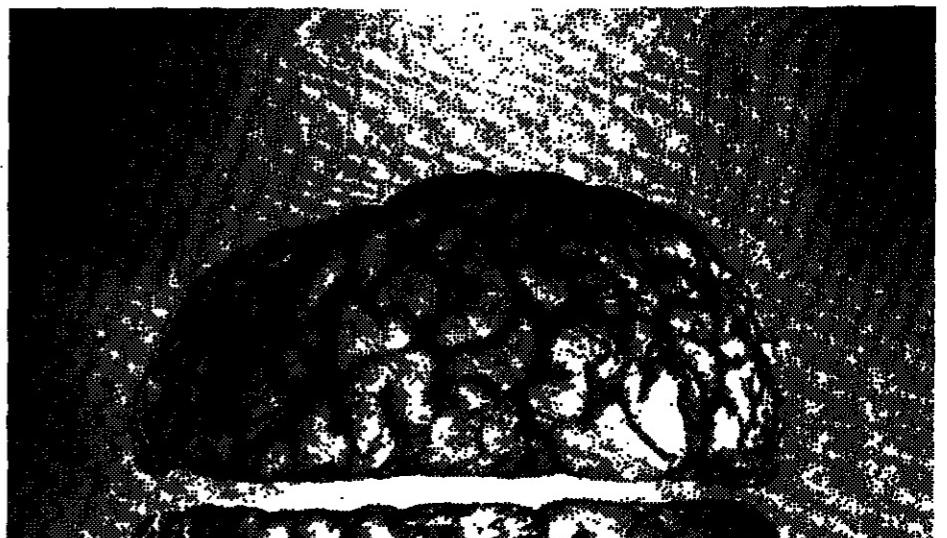
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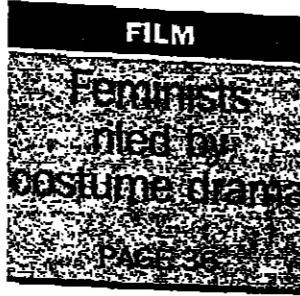
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THE TIMES WEDNESDAY APRIL 28 1999

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FILM  
Feminists  
die in  
costume drama

# ARTS

DONALD COOPER



Prunella Scales with (from left) Steven Pacey, Nigel Terry and Timothy West in Pinter's first play, *The Birthday Party*, dismissed by the critics as "lunatic ravings" in 1958

## Gibberish worth revisiting

**I**s Harold Pinter's first full-length play, finely staged by Sam Mendes at the National only five years ago, in need of yet another revival? Of course it is; and not just because we critics should be regularly reminded that we have a duty to be humble when confronted with strange new work. "What this means only Mr Pinter knows, for his characters speak in non-sentences, half-gibberish and lunatic ravings," wrote *The Guardian* back in 1958, summing up the general view — yet the abstruse flop is now acknowledged as one of the century's key works.

Why? The words stay the same but the play changes, depending on what is going on in the world and the spectators'

mind. A shabby, messy, out-of-work pianist festers in the dullest boarding house even the British seaside has produced. At the Piccadilly the very roses on the wallpaper are dying of boredom. In come two men in suits. Without doing anything obviously violent they break his spirit. They tease, accuse, pester, sneer, play disconcerting games — and, lo, the next morning they cart off a speechless but neatly dressed wreck to God knows where.

Joe Hartston, the play's latest director, does not tilt his production in any single, specific direction. If you wish, you can see Timothy West's big, fake-genial Goldberg, with his preposterously curly, platinum-coloured wig, and Nigel

### THEATRE

Terry's fidgety, whinny-haired McCabe as krakens from the depths of the troubled mind of Steven Pacey's Stanley. You can see them as important representatives of the society the young man has tried to escape. As Pinter himself once said: "The hierarchy, the Establishment, the socio-religious monsters arrive to effect censure and alteration upon a member of the club who has discarded responsibility."

But he has also intimated

that no European who has sat in dread of a certain sort of knock on the door could fail to understand the piece. That sound was much heard in Germany in the 1930s, could well have been repeated in Blackpool or Bournemouth in the 1940s, and may now be resonating in dissident homes in the Balkans. "You betray our breed," "You betray our land," "We can sterilise you"; the taunting voices are Irish and Jewish, as they must be, but there is still something of the ethnic cleaner in them. The revival's tiny chronological tricks — we get the original references to 1950s High Street shops, but also a glimpse of a headline about racism in a modern tabloid — surely encourage that line of thought.

I have seen more sinister, disturbing productions of the play. Sudden switches of light cannot substitute for a lack of human intensity when mental torture is on the agenda. Yet the acting is mostly strong. West and Terry catch the nervous insecurity as well as the determination of the tormentors; Pacey, all matted hair and bally body language at

first, has the craft plausibly to gulp, sob, giggle and gibber his way to his grim apotheosis; Prunella Scales, pink hair-cutters toppling down her forehead, is memorably dim as a ladylike who sees and learns nothing. Yes, it's good to see *The Birthday Party* again.

BENEDICT  
NIGHTINGALE

Luke Clancy on the latest moves by Cork's innovative Corcadorca company

## Enda's Irish pigs take flight

**S**itting with a cup of tea in the yellowing café of Cork's Crawford Gallery, Enda Walsh smiles happily. At the end of a long, long development of his latest play, the Dublin-born writer seems excited with the results. He smiles a great deal as he speaks even if there is a hint of magic exhaustion in his bright eyes.

There has been plenty of time for Walsh to grow tired of *Misterman*, the follow-up to his award-winning, globe-trotting *Disco Pigs*. After all, he produced his first draft of the play in an energetic rush back in 1997. Since then the script has been subject to the unique developmental techniques of Corcadorca, one of the most innovative and driven of Irish theatre companies.

Cracadore — the name hints at an interest in the darker side of their home town — has been in existence since 1991. Founded by director Pat Kiernan, the company took on the shape it has today when Walsh joined in 1993. "Pat wanted someone who could script, a kind of lyricist for whatever he wanted to do and that's me," says Walsh. The creative core of the outfit retains Walsh and Kiernan, with a close circle of colleagues involved in sound, lighting and design.

After a production of Walsh's *The Ginger Ale Boy*, the company became galvanised as a theatrical force. It opened a celebrated version of *Diego's Orange* in Cork in 1998, but it was with the next show, *Disco Pigs*, that the company began to attract international attention.

The play, about two Cork teenagers on the rampage through the night-time city, seemed like a long-awaited release of pressure like an underground river of linguistic energy that had suddenly



He writes, he acts: Enda Walsh in his new play *Misterman*

found the surface. Walsh's writing took the almost yodeling cadences of everyday Cork speech and formed them into a private language for his ultraviolet teenagers.

Kiernan's direction turned the urban setting into a kind of nasty sci-fi location, and Walsh's dialogue, bubbling with oddly lyrical Cork slang, compounded the sense of otherworldliness. The piece travelled to the Edinburgh Festival, after which two separate casts embarked on international tours. Audiences seemed simply astonished at what they were seeing.

"The main thread of our work, I suppose, is that we are dealing with very vulnerable, emotionally unstable people," says Walsh, a point underlined when the company went

energetically over the primary coloured toytown set, writing in Aidan Cosgrove's glisteningly lighted and at one point ranting in a shower of on-stage rain. Other voices pop up in Cormac O'Connor's soundtrack which runs constantly, adding mood music, or dousing Walsh's live words in brittle electronic reverb, but for the most part the audience listens as the playwright narrates Thomas's insanity.

The retro leanings of *Misterman* are somewhat startling after *Disco Pigs*' slick futuristic feel, and there are hints of Pat McCabe — "but you know," says Walsh, "Pat McCabe doesn't run the monopoly for writing about rural Ireland. And Cracadore's stamp on the traditional elements is distinctive."

**T**hat distinctive stamp will be seen in Edinburgh once again this year when *Misterman* opens at the festival. And the company plans to experiment in areas far beyond the theatre. Once *Misterman* is up and running the company moves on to a short film, written by Walsh, about a family that wakes one Christmas to find Santa dead under the tree, after which the company is co-producing a radio play, *Four Big Days in the Life of Jessie Banks*. Walsh is also into his fourth draft of the film version of *Disco Pigs*. Later in the year, *Bedbound*, Corcadore's Walsh-penned co-production with London's Bush Theatre, will open.

For the new century, Corcadore has already planned an enormous passion play for the streets of Cork next Good Friday. A strange turn for a group that made its name with a raucous drama about teenage kicks! "Well," says Walsh, "we still know a good story when we hear one."

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## Frankly, not baffled enough

Anthony Shaffer, the author of this celebrated thriller, is described in the programme biography as currently working on a new play. How nice for him if it runs as long as his first. But I wouldn't bank on it.

In the years since *Sleuth* first bamboozled audiences back in 1970, none of his plays has found a fraction of the same favour, unlike his screenplays — *Frenzy* for Alfred Hitchcock and *The Wicker Man* — which certainly climb to similar heights of contrivance and terror. Even the remarkable achievement of *Sleuth* (some 2,339 performances in the West End alone) looks surprising in the light of this Mobil Touring Theatre revival.

As with *The Mousetrap* there is only so much one can say about the treble-crossing plot. Peter Bowles and Michael Maloney are together on stage for the first act, but I should not like to say this is the case in the second. Bowles plays the arrogantly appalling Andrew Wyke, detective novelist of the snobbish old school that sneered at the social ignorance of policeman — "Frankly, sir, we in the Force are baffled" — who inevitably trail behind the polymathic brilliance of this Mobil Touring Theatre revival.

Peter Wilson's direction can't exactly be faulted, because Maloney and Bowles move interestingly around the set's two levels, and the pace quickens when the plot thickens. When the plot thins out again the lack of pace is the author's responsibility. In these areas the characters turn back into cardboard but elsewhere Maloney (though he looks as Italian as an Icelander) and Bowles inject some touches of reality.

Bowles's bitter mouth, air of condescending cruelty and childlike hurt are to the purpose. Maloney in investigative mode sounds absurdly like Long John Silver with asthma, but his cold passion comes across as real. It is the play itself that now seems as antique as the originals it skewed.

JEREMY KINGSTON

**LISTINGS**

Joshua Bell at the Wigmore

## RECOMMENDED TODAY

Guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Marit Hargre

## LONDON

**ENGLISH CHAMBER ORCHESTRA:** The ancient Chinese would have been surprised to find presenters of Japanese composer Yu Kohsima's sonata for shakuhachi, violin and strings. Paul Goodwin conducts the programme which also includes music by Ravel, Mozart and Schubert. Barbican (0171-638 8881). Tonight, 8pm. £5.

**SPRING AWAKENING:** Theatre 28's highly praised production of Wedekind's once banned play of schoolboy love, abstinence and desire. Stephen Harry directs. Trafalgar (0171-243 3940). Opens tonight, 8pm.

**GALA REHEARSAL:** An impressive array of singers dedicates their voices to this evening in aid of Action for Dysphasic Adults. Felicity Lott, Anne Evans, Kathryn Barnes, Donald Maxwell and Alison Thompson sing operatic delights accompanied by the English Chamber Orchestra. St John's Smith Square. Tickets: (0171-261 9572). Tonight, 7.30pm.

**JOSHUA BELL:** Returns only for the summer to the very popular American violinist performs music by Schubert, Beethoven, Brahms, and Bartók. With the pianist Zoltán Kocsis. Wigmore Hall (0171-935 2141). Tonight, 7.30pm. £5.

**ELSEWHERE:** Birmingham Symphony Orchestra concludes its South African concert tour. Here the excellent Norwegian pianist Leif Ove Andsnes performs No 4, flanked by Tippett's Double String Concerto and Mendelssohn's evocative Scotch



**Sheila Johnston on *Artemisia*, a controversial new film about the 'first' woman painter**

**T**he two women bend forward intently over their task, their sleeves rolled back as though they were kneading dough or plucking a chicken. But they are not absorbed in some comforting everyday domestic chore. Instead, the object of their attentions is a man, whom they are about to decapitate.

The Italian Baroque painting *Judith Slaying Holofernes* (1612) is acclaimed for its disturbing virtuosity – and celebrated as the work of a woman: Artemisia Gentileschi, often seen as the first successful professional female artist. Now she is the subject of a film, *Artemisia*, which opens in Britain on May 7.

Its director, Agnes Merlet, became interested in Gentileschi when she came across *Judith Slaying Holofernes* while studying art history. "This subject is a recurring theme in painting, but generally Judith is depicted with a cut-off head beside her," she says. "Here we see her in the act, and all the suffering, blood and screaming. I was fascinated by the way it was at the same time very sensual and ferocious, yet somehow detached from the violence. And I was stunned that it was painted by a woman. I realised Artemisia identified with Judith and wondered what had led her to feel this way."

Merlet's film explores the stark events behind this strange and intense vision. But it has also provoked some violent reactions in its own right. The crux of the controversy is a key event in Artemisia's life. Her father, Orazio Gentileschi, also an artist, had hired Agostino Tassi, a minor landscape painter, to give his daughter lessons in perspective. Instead of instructing her, Tassi deflowered her, and, although he had promised to marry her, it turned out he already had a wife. Orazio sued him for injury and damage, in a trial of which the transcript survives. But in the film, far from agreeing she had been raped, Artemisia insists on her love for Tassi. And it's the pain of their enforced and permanent separation which, according to Merlet's screenplay, inspired her work.

This interpretation has infuriated American art historians and feminists.

When the movie opened in New York last year, Roger Ward Bissell, who is preparing the catalogue raisonné of all known works by Artemisia, described it as "almost perverse". Meanwhile, Gloria Steinem and Mary Garrard, the author of the first major biography of the artist, invited feminists to picket screenings, claiming the movie encouraged stereotypes of women failing in love with their rapists.

Valentina Cervi stars as the 17th-century Italian painter Artemisia Gentileschi in a new film about her life

libbers. "Mary Garrard is really a radical Seventies-style feminist: a supporter of women's struggle against men. Her view claims that Artemisia was an innocent, savagely seduced as though she knew nothing of men. But I wanted to show her not simply as a victim who was raped and then got her revenge through her work, but as a more modern figure, ahead of her time, who took charge of her life and fought alongside men, not against them, for equal rights."

Perhaps the main conclusion to be drawn from this affair is the excitability of the American political correctness lobby – and the extent to which it can be manipulated by hard-nosed business interests. Miramax, whose aggressive marketing tactics secured multiple

Oscars for *Shakespeare In Love* and *Love Is Beautiful*, was *Artemisia's* distributor. It originally sold the film as a piece of arty erotica, with a poster describing its heroine – played by the young Italian actress Valentina Cervi – as "sexy" and "provocative". But the company hastily amended its campaign to cash in on the objections. "I warned Miramax that some feminists were opposed to it, and they contacted them to show them the film," Merlet says. "They encouraged the attacks."

In both France and Italy, by contrast, *Artemisia* was positively received, and its UK distributor says it does not expect a boycott here by outraged feminists. Certainly, the art historian Griselda Pollock, professor at the

University of Leeds and the author of several books on women painters, takes a measured view. "The evidence does not support the view that this was a love story," she says. She also disagrees with the importance attached to the rape for Pollock, the defining trauma in Artemisia's life was the early loss of her mother.

But she adds, "I'm not against the film because she has said something interesting using the material. I admire the ways in which the director has struggled to understand how sexuality, passion and an intensity of interest in the world were important for the artist. Agnes Merlet has every right to make a compelling drama – it was never intended as art history."

BARRY MILLINGTON

OPERA

King Priam in concert

Sound and fury of war

**T**imeless as the Greek histories are, there are times when their momentous subject-matter seems more relevant than ever. When we are assailed daily with images of war, a treatment of the legendary Greek bardies by a committed pacifist of our own age serves to focus sharply on the complex emotions engendered.

Michael Tippett's opera *King Priam* was presented in concert form as part of Radio 3's *Sounding the Century* festival. With a uniformly strong cast and a powerful performance by the BBC National Orchestra and Chorus of Wales and the BBC Singers under David Atherton, this was a reading of barely mitigated's rosy, driving home the message of lethal acts unleashed by brutalised sensibilities.

The ubiquitous brass tick-

ets and drum tattoos (crisply articulated) create an apprehensive air of military activity. But by placing Priam at the centre of the work, Tippett ensures that the dramatic is human, personal and affective.

Priam is seen as guilt-ridden, anxious, longing for death, and David Wilson-Johnson encompassed the whole range with impressive resources and stamina. Pushing himself to the limits – and apparently struggling with a cold – he engaged our sympathy, as he must, not least in his reaction to the death of his Hector, moaning with grief over rocking lower strings.

As his adversary Achilles, Marilyn Hill rose to the pugnaciously lyrical challenge of his lament for the homeland, "O rich-soiled land", accompanied by the guitar of Steve Smith. Stephen Roberts and Michael George were excellent a Hector and the Old Man, while John Graham-Hall had the youthful ardour for Paris.

On the distaff side, Susan Bullock and Susan Eickley were both formidable Teuba and Andromache, while Susan Parry paradoxically projected less passion as de faultively loved Helen, though the cool control in her hymn to the power of love spoke eloquently of her dangerous singleness.

Other parts were well taken by Mary King Neil Jenkins, Jeremy Huw Williams and Daniel Norrison.

If Act I was slow, pck up,

the shorter Act II, with its bellicose hard-edged sonorities was disturbingly immediate.

its end electrifying. The sense of inexorability in Act II was palpable. Atherton stably welding scenes and interludes in a dynamic dramatic sweep.

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Sound  
and fury  
of war

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OPERA  
King Priam  
Festival Hall

## ■ MUSIC

Pogorelich in quirky form

**GALLERIES:** William Kentridge's London show portrays the continuing turmoil of his homeland. Richard Cork reports

# Sombre visions of Africa

I isolated on a black wall, three lamps dangle in the darkness. They look fragile, and could easily be torn down from their slender cords. But for the moment they manage to function, spreading white splinters of light through the gloom.

Positioned in the opening room of William Kentridge's exhibition at the Serpentine, the lamps seem to act as a symbol of his hopes for art. He wants to tell the truth, not only about the traumatic history of his native South Africa but the human condition as a whole.

At the same time, though, he is acutely aware of the difficulties hampering such an aim. This dual ability, to bear witness and yet concede that the ambition is thwarted at every turn, gives his work its jarring, anguished conviction.

If he had lived a few centuries ago, Kentridge might well have channelled his protesting and intensely theatrical imagination into print-making. Both Hogarth and Goya, impelled by the urge to dissect the follies of their age, became masters of graphic art. Line is

the basis of Kentridge's work, too, but he uses cinematic techniques to give his draughtsmanship a leaping, constantly changing dynamism.

By filming his charcoal and pastel drawings, then reworking or erasing them and recording the alterations at every stage, he has developed his own style of animation. Although the influence of Beckmann, Grosz and Kollwitz gives Kentridge's films a pronounced Expressionist flavour, they end up as the inimitable product of a conscience scarred since childhood by the abomination of apartheid.

The son of a lawyer who represented victims' families after the Sharpeville massacre, when 72 black South Africans were killed by police, Kentridge undoubtedly welcomed the triumph of the ANC in 1994. But his films since that

decisive election are as haunted by the past as his earlier work. At the century's end, he is in no mood to regard South Africa with complacency. His show never stops battering us with baleful images of greed, hatred and violence.

Kentridge knows he can never define the full extent of the barbarity. But that does not stop him arraigning it with all the linear power he can muster. Avoiding the pitfall of making his targets too diffuse, he concentrates on the corrosive figure of Soho Eckstein.

In the earliest film shown here, the pin-striped Soho is a property developer who builds all over Johannesburg. Kentridge calls it the "second greatest city after Paris", but the urban panorama shown here is nightmarish. It certainly unsettles Felix Teitelbaum, a dreamer whose dazed nakedness contrasts with Soho's malevolence. The two men end up fighting each other in the city's sewage pools, but there is no sign of goodness triumphing.

Felix, who resembles Kentridge himself, succeeds only in bringing love to Soho's neglected wife, and two years later she returns to her husband in another film, *Sobriety, Obesity & Growing Old*. But this work does not let Soho triumph. He watches his empire crumble, and Kentridge invades the film with apocalyptic images of disintegrating office blocks. But Felix is unable to benefit from the obliteration of wealth. He finds himself alone in the wilderness, stunned by the spectacle of a country condemned to destruction without end.

The wrenching power of these short films is cumulative. At first, Kentridge's relentless transformations may seem frenetic and hard to absorb. After a time, however, the underlying pathos becomes clear. Far from simply indulging in an orgy of annihilation, the films show how the incessant turmoil impedes any

attempt to keep hold of history. Everything is continually undergoing a metamorphosis, and the ensuing confusion means that the past rapidly becomes obscured.

*Felix in Exile* is the film where the problem is addressed most disturbingly. Although he has fled to a room in a foreign country, Felix cannot escape his burdensome memories. The walls around him turn into the East Rand countryside clogged with corpses. However unavoidable they may seem, though, the bodies soon dissolve into the earth. So Felix, having been tortured by their presence, now finds himself bewitched by their absence.

The danger of forgetting apartheid's victims came more painlessly into focus when the Truth and Reconciliation Commission began its public ses-

sions in 1996. Kentridge must have believed that South Africa could only find a way forward by admitting to the horrors of racist hysteria. Placing Soho Eckstein in a hospital bed, still dressed in pin-stripes but suffering from a coma, he made a superb film called *History of the Main Complaint*. Breathing through an oxygen mask, the prostrate Soho is attached to a CAT scan where the inside of his body is juxtaposed with memories of atrocities he once witnessed.

We are confronted by his eyes caught in the rear-view mirror of his car as he drives along a bleak highway past silhouetted figures beating and killing. Soho's condition appears to deteriorate as he revisits the carnage he once avoided. Only when a corpse hits his windscreen and shatters the glass does he emerge from

the coma. The shock of finally confronting the reality of inter-racial strife restores him to health, but Kentridge refuses to present Soho's recovery in a wholly positive light. He soon reverts to his customary profit-grabbing role, as if nothing had caused him to question his old priorities after all.

**T**his oscillation, between a crusading desire for the facts and a fear that they will not change anything, gives Kentridge's work its bite. He persists in pursuing the grimiest aspects of his country's history, and in 1997 resurrected Alfred Jarry's *Ubu Roi* for a harrowing film collage where drawn animation is deployed alongside documentary footage of South African upheavals. The archive material reflects the fact that Kentridge

fragmented limbs end up dispersed in the night sky, useless as evidence in any investigation. Then they vanish altogether, and only a giant eye in the clouds appears as a silent reminder of the enduring need to observe and testify.

With swift, confident strokes he defines a torture room, where a bound figure is dumped upside-down in a bath, hauled out to hang in mid-air and dropped on his head. Individual pain then becomes a collective cry of torment as the camera widens out to show a whole building filled with similar chambers.

Ubu, who starts off looking merely absurd, sheds his clothes to reveal a robotic body. Resembling a camera on a tripod, it soon becomes a lethal instrument of terror. In the most mortifying scene, the tripod blows up a helpless body — not once or twice, but three times. The ever more

work in blood-saturated footage. Kentridge returns to the body-scanning he explored in *History of the Main Complaint*, and moves from sonar-blurred embryos in the womb to video of a hurricane demolishing everything in its path.

Both the beginning and the end of the world are thereby evoked, but the most affecting sequences are, as ever, animated by Kentridge himself. Idyllic Greek landscapes familiar to Ulysses dissolve into a grim South African highway. Hunted figures dart in and out of the tree-lined route, their bodies made spectral by the glare of headlights. They arouse feelings of dread; but Kentridge insists that the beams stay full on, regardless of any distress they may cause.

• William Kentridge at the Serpentine Gallery (0171-298 5151) until May 30

## AROUND THE LONDON GALLERIES

of Dutch and Flemish painters from the Golden Age when working on a small scale. The Cabinet Picture was not a genre in itself, but included examples of nearly all popular genres: landscapes, still lifes, portraits, religious and mythological pictures. Rather, it was a matter of scale: the pictures were all small and easily transportable, suitable for prosperous bourgeois who did not have palace walls at their disposal. There were specialists, but many leading figures also did it: Hals (a stunning portrait that hits you from across the room), Brueghel the Elder, Ruisdael, Savery, Dou, ter Borch, Wouwerman. The show also constitutes a history of collecting taste in England, from con-

temporaries of the painters right up to our own day. And if, incidentally, it conveys the idea that it is not too late to start collecting, that is fine too.

33 New Bond St, W1 (0171-999 5553), Mon-Fri 10am-5.30pm (Sat 12.30pm), until May 7

□ THE phrase "museum quality" might also be applied, in a slightly different sense, to the show *Portrait of the Artist at Work* at Wolseley Fine Art. This is completely a selling show, staged from stock by the dealer, but it is also designed to tour museums: it will go on to Pallant House in Chichester and the Victoria Art Gallery in Bath. It is built round the habit of artists of depicting

themselves or their artist friends. The portraits are all in various graphic media: etching, drypoint, lithograph. Though the show begins with a Rembrandt self-portrait etching, the vast majority of the artists are 20th-century Brits. There are two from Edgar Helleway's long series of self-portraits, one from 1923, the other from 1991. James Pryde and William Nicholson, the Beggarstaff Brothers of poster fame (actually brothers-in-law), draw each other. William Roberts portrays himself, not very flatteringly, in 1924, and Stephen Conroy and Anthony Green bring the tally of self-portraitists right up to date.

12 Needham Road, W11 (0171-727 888), Tues-Fri 11am-6pm (Sat 5pm), until May 22

JOHN RUSSELL TAYLOR

When a dealer comes up with a loan show, even one staged for charity, the question arises: what is in it for him? But when the show on offer is as splendid as The Cabinet Picture at Richard Green one hardly need grudge any sales which may accrue: visitors get a scholarly and illuminating guide to the whole range of Dutch and Flemish cabinet pictures from the 17th century. And in this case "museum quality" is no idle phrase: few museum shows could boast loans from the National Gallery, Dulwich Picture Gallery, the Ashmolean, the Fitzwilliam and a host of less known regional galleries.

The point of the show, curated by Christopher Wright, who is also responsible for the informative catalogue, is to draw attention to the skills

## GREAT BRITISH HOPES

Rising stars in the arts firmament:  
TIM VAN EYKEN

Age: 20.

Profession: Folk singer.

Current status: He recently won BBC Radio 2's Young Folk award, a coveted prize for up-and-coming performers of traditional music in Britain.

What's the boot? An appearance on Radio 2's *Folk On Two* and a prime slot this summer at the Cambridge Folk Festival.

Recording activity? Debut solo album *New Roots* is already available on his own Applecore label and a follow-up album is under way. "I prefer to do it myself than go for a big advance from a major record label. That seems very poor business to me. They end up owning you."

Other claims to fame: At Wells Cathedral School he became the first person to gain a specialist music place on a folk instrument. "That was down to Roger Durslton, the head of music. He's very open minded."

How did he start? "We went to all the folk festivals and camped out when I was a kid, and I started playing the penny whistle. I also play guitar and melodeon." Why folk music? "I think people should be aware of their own culture and heritage. That's why I opened with a morris tune at the Young Folk final. People have got hold of Irish music and put lots of energy into it: we need to do that with English folk music, to give it some passion. I try to be as unaffected as I can when I sing. I aim to tell a story, not to show off my voice."

What's next? "I'll be gigging solo and with my band Dr Faustus and as a duo with Rob Harbron, who is a great concertina player. There are so many different combinations and winning the Young Folk award is going to open a lot of doors."



NIGEL WILLIAMSON

## Chopin in a blur

**C**hopin is big enough to withstand a fair degree of reinvention. But what Ivo Pogorelich did in his name on Monday gave more than a short pause for thought. His recent recording of Chopin's scherzos gives fair warning of what happens when the insights gained from idiosyncrasy are blurred by eccentricity. This all-Chopin recital revealed still more of this process at work.

Pogorelich has the pianistic means to do almost anything he likes. He has the power to hurl the anger and outrage from those massive opening chords at the start of the Polonoise No 4 in C minor, written in 1839 when Poland was dominated by Russia. He can control touch and timbre minutely enough to make the central song of the Second Sonata's scherzo seem barely corporeal. And he has the clarity of articulation within the quietest playing to fashion a rare filigree of sound.

But, isolated from coherent interpretation, these skills can become mere effects. And when repeated in constant predictable sequence these effects can become a substitute for authentic emotional response. Pogorelich's repertoire of gestures gradually took over and finally subordinated the music it was intended to express.

The two sonatas which formed the pillars of his programme compounded the characteristics of the opening polo-

naises. Surging energy was stultified by rhythms so dislocated, and a pulse so pulverised that the music's natural momentum was all but arrested. The artless song at the heart of the Second Sonata's scherzo was tormented by rubato so that its contours became distorted out of all recognition, until the music seemed to vanish into itself.

This sense of dissolution was carried to an extreme in the Third Sonata, whose slow movement was attenuated to the point of near absurdity. Despite some applause a significant and increasing restlessness became apparent in the audience throughout the second half of the evening.

Pogorelich's often bewildering recital was given in aid of the historic sites of Vukovar, the town in eastern Croatia which fell in 1991 after three months of bombardment. We bomb and, in these corporate acts of beneficence or atonement, we rebuild. Who will be giving the benefit recital for Belgrade in five years' time?

HILARY FINCH

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THE TIMES

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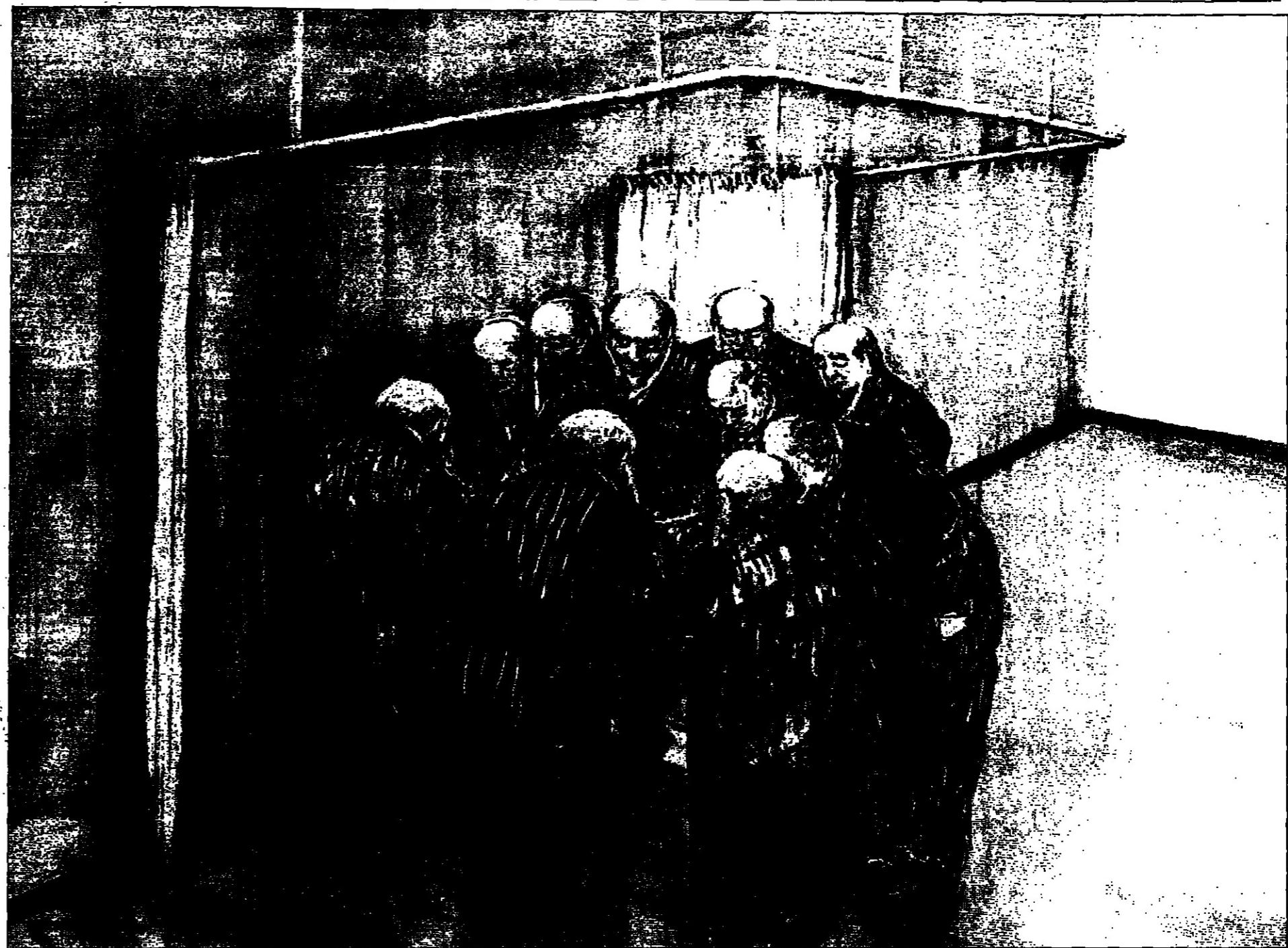
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## ■ TOMORROW

New movies reviewed

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**MAPPIN**

# Top of the housing market



Both Park show houses have double-height entrance halls with American oak doors

Ireland's housing market is booming — and has been for five years. Ben Wakeham wonders whether there is a lesson there for Britain

**T**he Irish housing market has been thriving for the past four or five years thanks to the economic boom, low interest rates and European funding. Prices have increased and houses are selling quickly.

Last year the Dublin market rose by 44 per cent, according to First Active, formerly Ireland's biggest building society. Interest-rate cuts have brought the republic in line with lending on the Continent, making property even more attractive.

"The Irish property market is a fascinating potential foretaste of what could happen to the British market," says Richard Donnell from Savills. "It is questionable whether we would experience a similar boom, but the cheap cost of money is already fuelling the UK market and would clearly boost the market even more were we to join the euro."

A good example of the buoyancy of the market is the new development of 47 houses in the Dublin suburb of Carrickmines of which 16 of the properties are priced at about £1m, and all were reserved by last weekend.

Mr Donnell says: "The boom in Ireland's housing market is because of lower levels of interest rates and very strong economic growth. There have been a lot of invest-

Ireland feels that it is on a par with the best in Europe

now able to find mortgage rates lower than 6 per cent.

But Mr Donnell does not think that Britain would experience a similar boom if it joined the euro. "People are spending an ever-smaller portion of their income on houses. At the peak of the 1980s, people in Britain were spending 40 per cent of their income on houses, now they are spending 16 per cent. People are saving more, or spending their income on consumer goods or going out in the evenings."

"Irish investors had a taste for investing at home, but are now being attracted by the higher yields in London. Last year 36 per cent of people buying in new building developments in London were Irish."

Of course, Ireland's tiger economy kick-started the housing market's growth. Growth rates have reached about 9 per cent, according to the Bank of Ireland, which is more than three times that of the UK. House prices rose nationally by 17.8 per cent last year, but in Dublin and the surrounding counties of Kildare, Louth, Meath and Wicklow they rose by 44 per cent.

"The Irish property market is incredibly strong," Andrew Hay, of Knight Frank, says. "It has boomed for the past four or five years — Ireland has never seen such growth. This is fuelled by the economic boom, low interest rates, European funding and a huge lift in national confidence. For the first time in generations, Ireland feels that it is on a par with the best in Europe."

Ronan O'Driscoll, from the estate agents Hamilton Osborne King in Dublin, the selling agent for the Carrickmines development, says: "We are seeing more and more million-pound houses on the market. There is a strong demand with a shortage of housing stock. Many people are moving back

to Ireland and the shortage is becoming a problem." Mr Hay says demand is fuelled by a growth in the number of domestic buyers and many more millionaires. "There are more incoming overseas buyers," Mr Hay says. "Traditionally, overseas buyers were looking for a good

complete with American oak doors and overhead windows. One house has a double-height dining room with steps leading to a spacious reception room. The reception rooms have fireplaces, wooden floors and picture windows.

Park Developments has provided one of the best kitchens available on the market. One of the show houses has four fitted bathrooms, the other five.

The most expensive houses have dou-

ble garages. The smaller four to five-bedroom houses have less floor space and smaller gardens. They have three reception rooms and a large kitchen with the same units and electrical and gas appliances in the bigger houses. They also have an integrated garage.

Stamp duty on a new house is less than that on a previously-owned home. Buyers of new homes have to pay stamp duty only on the cost of the site.

to Ireland and the shortage is becoming a problem." Mr Hay says demand is fuelled by a growth in the number of domestic buyers and many more millionaires. "There are more incoming overseas buyers," Mr Hay says. "Traditionally, overseas buyers were looking for a good

quality of life but now they are moving to Ireland for business, too. Overseas executives are relocating, drawn by Dublin's financial services and the prosperity of silicon valley west of Dublin.

Another dimension is returning expatriates. Ireland has had a brain drain for genera-

tions, particularly to America and Britain, but people are coming back because of the surge in confidence. They are usually high earners with high standards and are buying expensive homes."

One problem is the severe shortage of rental properties — 90 per cent of the population

own their own homes. In 1993, 787,000 people were potential home-owners; by 1998 that had swelled to 932,000. Immigrants outnumbered emigrants by 22,800 last year. Last year 95,000 jobs were created, which is more than the number created during the past ten years.

## SMART MOVES

THE 18th-century farmhouse where the 7th Marquess of Bristol spent the last months of his life is for sale. The marquis, who squandered most of his £3 million fortune, died last January after a life fighting heroin addiction.

Little Horringer Hall, a five-bedroom house with stables and a tennis court, lies in the grounds of the former family estate in Ickworth, Suffolk. The family's agent, Simon Pott and Company, is selling the house for £600,000.

■ TYDD St Mary is an ancient village and parish best known for being home to England's only pontiff. Adrian IV (Nicholas Brakespeare) became Pope in 1154. The Old Rectory, a four-bedroom double Georgian longhouse once owned by the Church, has recently come on to the market. Bidwells' Cambridge office is selling the house for £290,000.

■ THE former home of the Archers editor, William Smedurst, is for sale. When Mr Smedurst developed the characters of Nigel and Lizzie Parfitter, he used his home, Compton Verney in Warwickshire, as the model for Lower Lexley Hall. The Grade II listed house is set in 40 acres of park, maintained by the Compton Verney museum. It is for sale through Knight Frank's Stratford-upon-Avon office for £315,000.

■ THE house where the Black Prince is reputed to have been born is for sale. Manor Farm House, Old Woodstock, Oxfordshire, is a Grade II listed manor house. The first recorded mention of the property is in 1342. The house is for sale through John D Wood for £425,000.

■ THE Dower House, Weybridge, Surrey, forms the centre of a property formerly known as Ashley Lodge. In the 1880s, the Prince of Wales, later Edward VII, leased the hunting lodge to Sir George Lewis, the solicitor who represented Oscar Wilde and James McNeill Whistler. The house remained Crown Property until the 1920s. It is for sale through Knight Frank's Esher office for £875,000.

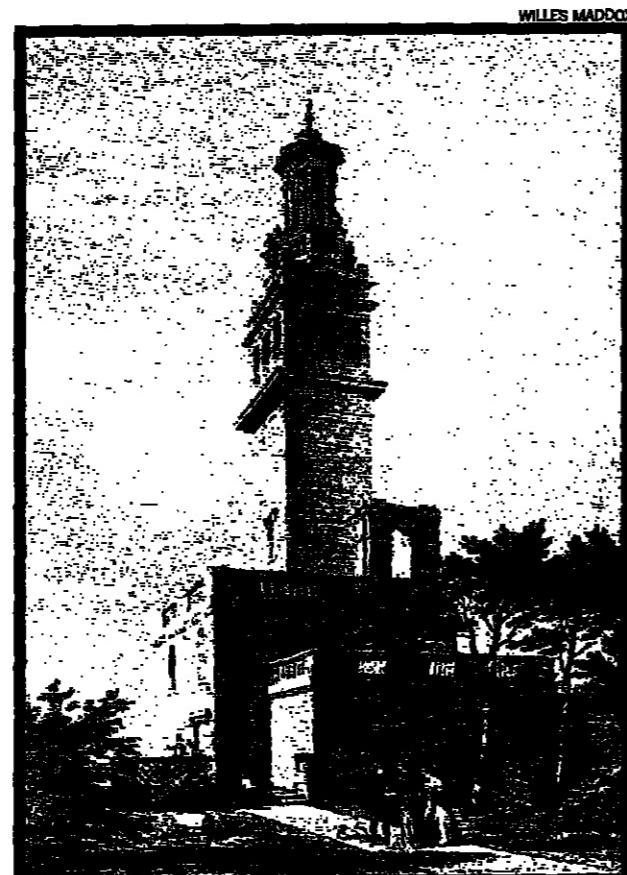
EMMA GOSNELL



The reception rooms in the Carrickmines show houses by Park Developments have fireplaces and wooden floors

## How to make jolly in one man's great folly

Beckford's tower may be eccentric but it is beautiful, says Rachel Kelly



Beckford's tower was built in 1825 and is now being restored

When the eccentric art collector and writer William Beckford built a folly towering over downland north of Bath in 1825, he boasted that it commanded "the finest prospect in Europe", with views across the Bristol Channel to Wales and into Wiltshire.

His boast still rings true. And, if the tower's owner, the Beckford Tower Trust, and the Landmark Trust complete their restoration work, four inhabitants will be able to enjoy his folly, and possibly Britain's most romantic home, for the millennium.

The Landmark Trust was approached by the Beckford Trust to renovate a large area of the tower and make it into four rooms; they hope that, as well as living space, the building will house a small museum. "It appealed to us because it will be such an exciting experience for Landmarkers to sit in the gilded lantern of the tower," says Peter Pearce, of Landmark. "We see it as the Landmark's millennium project and we will fund it with our millennium fund."

The most spectacular feature for holidaymakers who hire Beckford's tower, which stands 800ft above sea level, is likely to be the belvedere at the top, which is reached by a spiral staircase. "The experience of sitting in the tower will really be quite special. It is newly gilded and shines like a beacon across Bath," Mr Pearce says.

External restoration work and the gilding of the lantern by the Beckford Tower Trust are now almost complete, at a cost of more than £650,000, supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund and a successful fund-raising appeal. However, a further £40,000 is still needed. The scheme relies on donations, including those made with bookings for the millennium.

The tower was originally Beckford's retreat. He would ride across the countryside from his home in Lansdown Crescent to admire his extensive art collection displayed in the rooms in the building's base.

The interiors were giddy in their richness: the walls were terracotta, the curtains crim-

ic Fonthill Abbey in Wiltshire and lived there until 1822. Unfortunately, only a fragment of the house survives.

After Beckford's death in 1844, the gardens became a cemetery — where Beckford is buried beside his favourite dog. The tower was converted into a chapel; its interior was gutted by fire in the Thirties. In 1969, the building was made redundant.

Two admirers then bought the building and divided its base into two private flats and two exhibition rooms. More recently, the tower was bought by the Beckford Tower Appeal. Last year the 120ft tower was in danger of collapse. Only the efforts of the trust to raise £100,000 towards repairs has ensured its survival. External restoration work and the gilding took the cost to £650,000.

The Landmark hopes to convert the area into two bedrooms, a kitchen, living room and bathroom. It would sleep four people at a cost of about £250 for a mid-winter four-night break, and £700 or £800 at high season for a week. Mr Pearce says: "It would attract a wide range of people. Beckford was a fascinating man and the tower is of great architectural interest."

LINCS

Websites:  
[www.bath-preservation-trust.org.uk](http://www.bath-preservation-trust.org.uk)  
[www.landmarktrust.co.uk](http://www.landmarktrust.co.uk)

● Donations for the restoration of the tower can be sent to: Beckford Tower Appeal, Freepost (SWB10234), 1 Royal Crescent, Bath, BA1 2XF. Landmark Trust booking line, 01628 825925. The trust emphasises that buildings are being let for the millennium only to people on its mailing list, with a closing date of May 15. It is still possible to get your name on the list by buying the Landmark Handbook, priced £9.50, or ringing the above number. The trust cannot take any potential bookings for Beckford tower, until it becomes clear when restoration work will be complete.

travagantly decorated and Landmark hopes to achieve some of the atmosphere created in Beckford's day. The eccentric's great passion was for idiosyncratic buildings. He commissioned the mock-Gothic

### EXCLUSIVE READER OFFER

THE TIMES

## 2 FOR 1 TICKETS AT SIX TOP SHOWS



This week The Times offers readers the chance to buy two tickets for the price of one for some of the best shows in London. To book call 0870 842 2211

**Amadeus**, Old Vic, SE1. Peter Shaffer's wickedly funny play currently starring Nicholas le Prevost. Offer valid until May 31 Monday-Thursday evenings at 7.30pm and matinees on Wednesday and Saturday at 3pm. Tickets normally £32.50 each.

**Blood Brothers**, Phoenix Theatre, WC2. Winner of the Olivier Best Musical Production award. Offer valid until June 30 Monday-Friday evenings at 7.45pm and matinees on Thursday at 3pm and Saturday at 4pm. Tickets normally £32.50 each.

**An Inspector Calls**, Garrick Theatre, WC2. Winner of 19 awards, the National Theatre production of J. B. Priestley's thriller stars William Gaunt. Offer valid Monday-Thursday evenings at 7.45pm until May 15. Tickets normally £29.50 each.

**The Woman in Black**, Fortune Theatre, WC2. Susan Hill's frightening ghost story, now in its tenth year. Offer valid Monday-Thurs evenings at 8pm from May 1-June 30. Tickets normally £29.50 each.



**Buddy**, Strand Theatre, WC2. Rock'n'roll musical of the Buddy Holly Story. Offer valid Tuesday-Thursday evenings at 8pm, Friday evenings at 8.30pm and Sunday matinees at 4pm until May 31. Tickets normally £27 each (Tues-Thurs and Sun mats) and £30 each Friday evening.

**The Reduced Shakespeare Company**, Criterion Theatre, W1. The longest-running comedy in the West End includes all 37 of the Bard's plays. Offer valid for Tuesday-Friday evenings at 8pm and matinees on Thursday at 3pm, Saturday at 5pm and Sunday at 4pm until June 30. Tickets normally £19.50 each.

There is a £2 transaction fee per booking.

**Live**, THE TIMES  
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CHANGING TIMES







## CRICKET

# Stewart to bid for urgent net profit

By GEOFFREY DEAN

**ALEC STEWART** has withdrawn from Surrey's PPP County Championship match at Northampton today after the death of his paternal grandmother over the weekend. The funeral is expected to take place later this week.

The England captain, suffering from an acute shortage of runs for both county and country since the Melbourne Test in December, is aiming to arrange some net sessions at the Oval before Sunday, when the World Cup squad meet up at Canterbury in preparation for their three warm-up games against counties. All the other England players will be turning out for their counties this week in a full programme of championship matches.

One former England cricketer, Mark Lathwell, may be out for the rest of the season because of a knee injury sustained on Somerset's pre-season tour to South Africa. The county is still awaiting the surgeon's report after an operation at the weekend, but Jamie Cox, his captain, said yesterday that he was 80 per cent certain that Lathwell would miss the entire season. "Mark has damaged his anterior cruciate ligament, which is one of the worst knee injuries you can get," Cox said.

Eight championship games begin today and a ninth, between Somerset and Yorkshire, starts tomorrow. Leicestershire, the leaders, include

Alan Mullally for the first time this season in their match at Grace Road against Lancashire. Jimmy Ormond is likely to step down with Matt Brimson and Jon Dakin continuing the final place.

Warwickshire will be without their skipper, their wicket-keeper, for the visit to Chelmsford. Piper, who batted so well at No 5 for his 66 against Somerset last week, has since suffered a recurrence of an old back ligament injury. By wearing special insoles in his boots, thereby realigning both hip and back, he managed to solve the problem last year, but he lost the insoles on the county's pre-season tour to South Africa. Thinking that he was permanently disabled, he did not replace them on his return home and has paid the price.

Matthew Fleming, the Kent captain, has an enviable dilemma as far as selection is concerned for the home match with Derbyshire. "With Mark Esham back and Julian Thompson fit again, I've got 13 fit players vying for 11 places, which is a healthy situation," Fleming said. "I am very pleased with the attitude shown by everyone at the club this season."

Another happy captain is Jason Gallian, of Nottinghamshire. So pleased was he with Chris Read's first innings at No 6 for the county last week, when he made 28 against Leicestershire, that Gallian



Lathwell is likely to miss the whole season after having an operation on his injured knee at the weekend

intends to let the wicketkeeper, 20, keep his place in the batting order.

"Chris has come on in leaps and bounds with the bat — that was a good knock in difficult conditions at Leicester and he handled himself very well," Gallian said. Read's promotion will be viewed with interest by the England selectors, who are thought to favour him as Stewart's long-term successor behind the stumps, if he can improve his batting.

With so little cricket having been played so far this season because of the weather, counties have encouragingly few injuries to report. However, Sussex will be without Jason Lewry, their strike bowler, for the tour to Glamorgan, where Tony Cotter makes an immediate return to face his old county. The good news for Sussex supporters is that Lewry is expected to be fit for their next championship game, against Gloucestershire, on May 19.

GOING: GOOD TO FIRM (FIRM IN PLACES) SIS

**5.20 LINDA FORREST MEMORIAL MAIDEN HURDLE** (Div 2; £2,661; 2m 110yd) (16 runners)

1 P-56 BIR TARGET 179 (5) Mr A. Smith 6-1-6 B Handing  
2 6000 STASH THE CASH 30 (T.F.B.S) M Hammond 8-11-5  
3 6045 POLO VENTURE 7.25 Celtic Duke  
4 615 Stash The Cash 8.30 Jessica One  
5 Carl Evans: 8.00 Gallants Delight

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GOING: GOOD TO FIRM (FIRM IN PLACES) SIS

**5.45 LINDA FORREST MEMORIAL MAIDEN HURDLE** (Div 2; £2,647; 2m 110yd) (15)

1 P-56 CHESHIRE 33 (5) Ms S Bradburne 6-11-5 Mr M Bradburne  
2 6000 ECHO MAN 88 Mr J Russell 5-11-6 T Read  
3 6045 HAPPY BLAKE 34 Ms J Saville 6-11-6 B Handing

4 6045 ISLE OF RHUM 27 (5) Mr M Barnes 5-11-6  
5 6045 POLITICAL SIX 9 Mr N Jones 5-11-6  
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Scotland manager retains respect for Germany's fading powers

# Brown seeks reversal of roles

FROM KEVIN McCARRA  
IN BREMEN

THIS evening in Bremen, the most pious member of the congregation is obliged to turn iconoclast. In a friendly match, Craig Brown must try to damage opponents that he reveres. The Scotland manager has regarded Germany as his model ever since, as a young coach, he studied the slick discipline of a Bayern Munich squad training for the 1976 European Cup final, in which they defeated Saint-Etienne at Hampden Park.

When he took control of Scotland in 1993, his first step was to pay homage to the German model by adopting the three-man defence as a customary tactic. Much as he hopes for fallibility, Brown defends his adversaries tonight against all the charges of decline that

## TEAMS

**GERMANY** (possible): 3-4-3: J Lehmann (Borussia Dortmund) — J Nowotny (Bayer Leverkusen), L Kretschmer (FC St Pauli), O Bierhoff (Paris Saint-Germain) — T Stump (Bayern Munich), J Jeremic (Bayern Munich), D Haasis (Neuwesten United), M Hoeness (Fenerbahce), O Neuville (Hansa Rostock), O Bierhoff (AC Milan), H Held (TSV Munich 1860), M Klose (FC Augsburg), M Schuster (VfB Stuttgart) — D Waris (Everton), C Hendry (Rangers), T Boyd (Celtic), C Davidsen (Blackburn Rovers) — S Gossain (Everton), A Johnston (Sunderland) — W Doidie (Aberdeen), D McLeish (Ipswich Town), R Gehrig (U Matur (Switzerland))

TELEVISION: Sky Sports 1; Live coverage, from 7pm.



Neil Sullivan, left, and Alan Main, the goalkeepers, in discussion after Scotland's training session in the Weser Stadium. Photograph: Christof Stache

have ensued since Croatia beat them 3-0 at the World Cup finals last summer.

"Apart from that one result, they have been the greatest force in Europe," Brown said, "and I feel they will prove to be more consistent than France." The manager marshals his evidence, noting that Borussia Dortmund won the European Cup only two years ago, a feat that Bayern Munich can emulate by overcoming Manchester United in the final next month. Recent victories, including a 3-0 win over Northern Ireland, also suggest that Germany will qualify for the European championship.

Like a fortress in a stage set, however, the apparently impregnable walls may turn out to be made only of paper-mâché. There are still blows to punch in German self-esteem. At the beginning of this year, Germany were beaten 3-0 by the United States in Florida. Erich Ribbeck, the coach, explained that the hard conditioning work being undertaken then had deprived the side of sharpness.

Mitigating factors were no salve for national pride left raw by that rout. "For six days," Ribbeck said, "the weather was beautiful, everyone worked hard and there were no drunken players. Then, in 25 minutes, we were 3-0 down to the United States."

He recounts the episode in the phlegmatic, implicitly humorous manner of a veteran manager.

Nonetheless, he and the squad are on probation and note will be taken of the way in which they conduct themselves against Scotland. Ribbeck sees little place for youngsters, but, in restructuring Germany, he has called upon some established Bundesliga players who had little or no previous experience of

international football, with Oliver Neuville, the Hansa Rostock forward, making a pleasing impression.

At 29, Horst Heldt will make his debut if Marco Bode fails to recover from injury. With 134 caps, Lothar Matthäus has a reserve of expertise out of which to compensate for callowness elsewhere. Although lacking a few players, Ribbeck is content with the available resources.

Brown cannot be at ease. Instead, he takes pride in a tight-knit party whose camaraderie finds an expression in philanthropy. While complimenting England's action in donating their fees for the match with Hungary tonight to aid Kosovar refugees, he let it be known that the £90,000 proceeds of the World Cup song recorded by his squad had been given to the Dunblane Appeal.

Mean-spiritedness is confined to the pitch. Recognising that Germany will have to be confined to narrow limits,

forward on each wing, Brown has elected to employ the width of a back four in a game that will test Scotland's defence. Efforts will still be made to explore the true depth of Germany's confidence. "I'm not going to sit back and let them make passes," said Paul Lambert, the former Borussia Dortmund midfield player, said. "It's important that we go at them." Admiration for Germany will have to be confined to narrow limits.

David has looked as sharp as a tack in training," McCarthy said yesterday. "He needs to get a move, get a club and I guarantee he'll score goals. It's a difficult position for him."

Connolly's record for Ireland — seven goals in 15 appearances — bears close comparison to some of the best, but he is growing frustrated by the lack of matches in the Nationwide League first division. "I'm still contracted to

denied him the services of Magnus Hedman, of Coventry City, Fredrik Ljungberg, of Arsenal, and Johan Mjallby, of Celtic.

Henrik Larsson, Mjallby's free-scoring club colleague, has been allowed leave and is relishing the break. "It's good for us to play in Dublin," he said. "It will be very useful for our preparations for the big game against England." Not everyone dislikes international football.

**IRELAND** (4-4-2): S. Ghini (Newcastle United); B. Doherty (Brentford); S. Stenton (Liverpool); G. Broad (Coventry City); K. Cunningham (Wimbledon); J. McEneely (Blackburn Rovers); A. McDonald (Preston North End); P. Keane (Sheffield Wednesday); M. Kennedy (Wimbledon); N. Quinn (Sunderland); D. Connolly (Wolverhampton Wanderers); S. McNamee (Aston Villa); K. Miller (Sheffield United); G. Doherty (Sheffield Wednesday); P. Keenan (Leicester City); P. Anderson (Borussia Monchengladbach); J. Blomqvist (Marseille); T. Lovell (Bolton); H. Larsson (Malmö); S. Mjallby (Malmö); D. Anderson (Earl); J. Blomqvist (Manchester United); H. Larsson (Celtic); J. Patterson (Borussia Monchengladbach); P. Gerhard (France).



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# Ireland offer chance to club misfits

FROM RUSSELL KEMPSON IN DUBLIN

**MICK McCARTHY**, the Ireland manager, and his international counterparts — Kevin Keegan of England, Craig Brown of Scotland, and Lawrie McMenemy of Northern Ireland — share a common bond this week. They are in the wrong places at the wrong time, according to the clubs, and consequently their requests for players, at a vital stage of the domestic season, have been treated less than sympathetically.

Shadow squads, ravaged by unavailability and "injuries", have been selected and skeleton sides announced. When Ireland play a similarly weakened Sweden team at Lansdowne Road tonight, it could be construed as the friendliest of friendlies. Most of the central characters will be at home, safely tucked up in bed with a hot cup of cocoa.

Still, there are Brownie points to be earned and reputations to be resurrected before the European championship qualifying series resumes in June, when Ireland are due to play Yugoslavia in Dublin — if the group eight confusion, exacerbated by the Balkans conflict, has been resolved — and England entertain Sweden, the group five leaders. For David Connolly and Mark Kennedy, the absenteeism this evening may prove beneficial.

Connolly's extended loan period with Wolverhampton Wanderers from Feyenoord, the Dutch champions, has taken a turn for the worse, with neither club now appearing to want him, while Kennedy can hardly get a game for Wimbledon, either.

A return to the international stage could breathe fresh life into flagging careers.

"David has looked as sharp as a tack in training," McCarthy said yesterday. "He needs to get a move, get a club and I guarantee he'll score goals. It's a difficult position for him."

Connolly's record for Ireland — seven goals in 15 appearances — bears close comparison to some of the best, but he is growing frustrated by the lack of matches in the Nationwide League first division. "I'm still contracted to

## SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

BY ROBERT SHEEHAN, BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT

This board from the Malta Bridge Festival Pairs was against the pair who were to be our team-mates later in the week, so crowning rights as well as matchpoints were at stake.

Dealer South East-West game Pairs

♦ Q74	♦ 642	♦ 1052	♦ J106
♦ 1082	♦ QJ73	♦ J97	♦ 984
N	W	E	S
W	E	S	
S			
♦ A93	♦ K985	♦ 522	
♦ A4	+ AKQ7		

Contract: Three No-Trumps by South. Lead: eight of spades.

My raise to Three No-Trumps was quite aggressive, but using Stayman to look for a 4-4 spade fit would be a definite error. Making any game should be a good result, and 40 against 40 is unlikely to make much difference. On the other hand, spades will often produce no more tricks than no-trumps, especially if opener is also 4-3-3-3. And a Stayman sequence can give away useful information to the defenders.

Tom Townsend did well to play low from dummy at trick one, winning with the nine. Then he went astray, continuing with ace and another spade. East won and switched to diamonds. Now the best declarer could do was cash out for one off.

The winning line is to cross to dummy in clubs and lead the queen of spades. If East covers declarer has four spade tricks to go with four clubs

to the queen of clubs. Robert Sheehan writes on bridge Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

## WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

### MOROLOGY

- a. The study of toadstools
- b. Greed
- c. Foolish chit-chat

### LISKIN

- a. A maid
- b. A regional accent
- c. Malt vinegar dregs

Answers on page 46

## KEENE on CHESS

BY RAYMOND KEENE, CHESS CORRESPONDENT

### Hampstead masters

Of the four events contested at Hampstead in mid-April, the masters section was won jointly by Lawrence Cooper and Angus Dunnington, both of whom scored 6½/9. Today's games are both from this event. Final scores: Cooper and Dunnington 6½; Krutti and Pribyl 5½; Norris 5; Sheldon 4½; David Anderson, Becker-Jensen and Naylor 3; Matthew Anderson 2½.

White: Angus Dunnington

Black: Ruth Sheldon

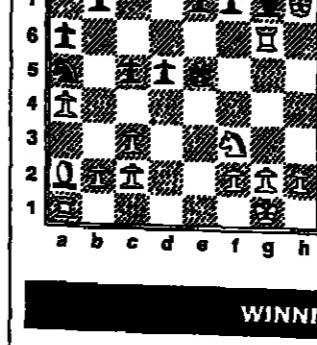
Hampstead 1999

Sicilian Defence

1	04	c5	N½
2	03	Nc6	6½
3	Nc3	g5	0
4	Qd2	Qd5	0
5	a3	Bc2	Nc4+
6	Qc2	15	0
7	g3	b6	0
8	Bg2	b7	0
9	Nc3	Nf6	0
10	Rd1	Qd6	0
11	a4	a6	0
12	Bd2	Nc5	0
13	Be3	g5	0
14	Qc7	Qc7	0
15	Bxg5	Qxg5	0
16	Ng5	d5	0
17	Qd3	Rd8	0
18	a6	Bxe6	0
19	Re6	Qd4	0
20	Qh7+	Kb8	0
21	Rg5	Ke3	0
22	Nf3	Kd4	0

Black resigns

Diagram of final position



White resigns

Keene online

You can send me your queries, puzzles, problems and games direct by e-mail. The address is [keenechess@aol.com](mailto:keenechess@aol.com). The best contributions from Times readers will be published either here or in the Saturday Times Weekend column.

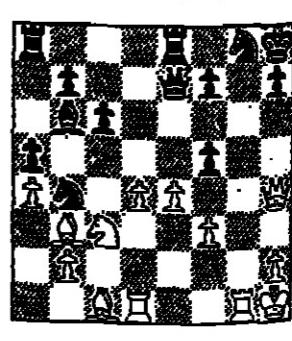
□ Raymond Keene writes on chess Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

## WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene

White to play. This position is from the game Maiveva — Lundin, Moscow 1999.

How does White exploit the broken up Black kingside?



Solution on page 46

id offer  
nce to  
misfits

## Inter hand caretaker duties to Hodgson

BY STEPHEN WOOD AND GEORGE CAULKIN

**ROY HODGSON**, who was dismissed as manager of Blackburn Rovers five months ago, was asked yesterday to take charge of Internazionale until the end of the season.

Hodgson managed Inter for two seasons before swapping the San Siro for Ewood Park in the summer of 1997. His fortunes have come full circle, however, and Inter have confirmed that they wanted Hodgson to return as "technical director of the first team squad".

Inter are ninth in Serie A and Hodgson has four matches in which to bring a little cheer to the club, while also healing the wounds left by the previous regime. Prime among Inter's concerns is the situation surrounding Ronaldo, the Brazil striker. Some reports suggest that Ronaldo is unhappy with life in Milan, particularly after receiving abuse from supporters after the 3-1 defeat by Udinese last Sunday.

Ronaldo's car was pelted with stones as he left the ground and he said afterwards: "I don't expect eternal gratitude, but I think I've got a right to a certain amount of understanding over the physical problems that have affected my form over the last nine months."

Hodgson was a success during his first spell in charge at Inter, but whatever his record in the next month, he will not be in charge next season. Marcello Lippi, the former Juventus coach, has been confirmed already as the club's coach. However, it does give Hodgson another platform from which to advertise

his talents. He guided Inter to the Uefa Cup final of 1997 and Blackburn into the Uefa Cup in his first season in charge of the Lancashire club.

Newcastle United appear to have come up on the rails to pip Sheffield Wednesday, West Ham United and Middlesbrough in the race to sign Oleg Luzhny, the Dynamo Kiev left back.

Although there will be no formal announcement until after the FA Cup final next month, the Ukraine captain has agreed a four-year contract with Newcastle, worth £1 million per season. Luzhny, 30, whose speed has earned him the nickname Horse, will cost £2 million. Newcastle are also well advanced in a £3.5 million deal to sign Alain Goma, the Paris Saint-Germain central defender.

Luzhny's move to Tyneside represents a considerable blow to Bryan Robson, the Middlesbrough manager, who travelled to Germany last week for talks with Kiev officials before their European Cup semi-final against Bayern Munich. Robson was under the impression that the transfer was all but completed.

There was further tension on Teesside yesterday when Robson reacted spikily to suggestions that Paul Gascoigne — who was treated in a London clinic for alcohol-related problems last October — has suffered a relapse. Gascoigne, 31, has missed his side's past three matches.

"Everything is blown out of proportion," Robson said. "I spoke to Gazza yesterday and he has not been drunk."



Van der Sar, a shouter and organiser in the Schmeichel mould, claims that he could be leaving Ajax to become first-choice goalkeeper at Old Trafford

## Ferguson pours scorn on goalkeeper's claim

BY STEPHEN WOOD

**MANCHESTER** United denied yesterday that they had made an approach to Edwin van der Sar, the Ajax and Holland goalkeeper, who has put himself forward as the successor to Peter Schmeichel. Alex Ferguson, the United manager, described Van der Sar's claims that United had been in touch with him as "absolute nonsense".

Ferguson said that he had drawn up a shortlist of two goalkeepers and that Van der Sar was not on it. Schmeichel, the Denmark goalkeeper, remains adamant that he will leave Old Trafford at the end of the season, ending an eight-year association with the club.

Ferguson has received reports on several goalkeepers playing for Continental clubs since Schmeichel confirmed his decision to retire from English football last November. Undoubtedly, Van der Sar has been one, along with Gianluigi Buffon, of Parma, Carlos Roa, of Real Mallorca, and Oscar Moens, of AZ Alkmaar.

Players with English clubs under review are Mark Bosnich of Aston Villa, who is available without a fee, Richard Wright, of Ipswich Town, and Mark Schwarzer, of Middlesbrough.

Van der Sar has claimed that he has become the chosen one and has gone on record as saying: "United have been in contact with me to ask about my feelings and availability about joining them if a transfer could be agreed between the clubs. Obviously, I would be interested."

It is not surprising that Van der Sar, 28, has made his feelings known, for a move to United would reunite him with Jaap Stam, a friend and colleague at international level.

Maurice Watkins, a United director who is also the club's solicitor, said yesterday: "I am not aware of anything of that

nature having taken place." Van der Sar has hardly got any potential relationship with Ferguson off to a good start. A player declaring the club's interest in public, before the United manager has acted, is not Ferguson's preferred way of doing business.

However, Ajax will be very interested to hear that United have allegedly approached the player before contacting them.

Maurice Watkins, a United director who is also the club's solicitor, said yesterday: "I am not aware of anything of that

senting United. It is an old game and it just helps create speculation. People say there is no smoke without fire, but there is nothing I can do until I am able to officially announce who the new United goalkeeper is.

"I am not close to signing anyone at the moment. I need to find out how much money I will have to spend and I expect that news to come soon. At the moment I have a couple of goalkeepers in my thoughts, although nothing has been agreed yet."

Ferguson would not reveal their identities, but the likelihood is that Bosnich and Schwarzer are uppermost in his mind. Bosnich's financial demands are said to be extortionate, but if the call came to return to Old Trafford, there would be no surprise if he suddenly felt able to conform with United's pay ceiling for players, which stands at around £25,000 a week.

Alternatively, Ferguson could unveil an unknown. He surprised many with the appointment earlier this season of Steve McLaren, formerly of Derby County, as his assistant manager and he would enjoy fooling everybody once again.

## Pakistan call on Pybus

■ CRICKET: Richard Pybus will be unveiled as Pakistan's new coach today ahead of the World Cup. He was recommended by Raja Khan, the Pakistani assistant tour manager, who is based in England. Javed Miandad, Pybus's predecessor, resigned last week for family reasons.

Wasim Akram, the Pakistan captain, said: "It will be very good to have Richard with our side."

□ Owen Arthur, the Prime Minister of Barbados, apologised yesterday for the crowd disturbance that saw bottles thrown on to the pitch in the final one-day international between Australia and West Indies.

■ ATHLETICS: The three leading British meetings this summer will command record prize-money for such events in Great Britain. The British Grand Prix, which is scheduled for August 7 at either Crystal Palace or Sheffield, will have around £450,000 available — more than the seven meetings that comprise the Gold League series.

■ TENNIS: Boris Becker, of Germany, lost to Wayne Ferreira, of South Africa, 3-6, 6-3, 6-4, in the opening round of the BMW Open in Munich yesterday. Becker is playing his first tournament since the death of his father last week.

■ SQUASH: England have made changes ahead of the European team championships that begin in Linz, Austria, today. England will defend the men's title from pool B. Lee Beachill and Marcus Berritt will be the bottom order behind Paul Johnson, the British champion, and Simon Parke, the England No 2.

### FOR THE RECORD

#### FOOTBALL

NATIONWIDE CONFERENCE: Rushden and Diamonds 4 Forest Green Rovers 0; Leek Town 2 Welling Utd 4; POKER MATCHES: Hednesford Town v Kynaston 1; Buxton 3 Droylsden 2; DRILLERS 2: Nantwich 2; PREMIER DIVISION: Ashton 0; Bury 0; Boreham Wood 0; BRIXTON 1; Bunting 0; BRYAN LEAGUE: Brixton 1; Chorlton 1; Huddersfield 1; Ilkeston 1; Macclesfield 1; Macclesfield Town 1; Macclesfield 2; NEWCASTLE 1: Newcastle 1; OLD FIRM: Rangers 1; CELTIC 1; ST MIRREN 1; ST MIRREN 2; ST MIRREN 3; ST MIRREN 4; ST MIRREN 5; ST MIRREN 6; ST MIRREN 7; ST MIRREN 8; ST MIRREN 9; ST MIRREN 10; ST MIRREN 11; ST MIRREN 12; ST MIRREN 13; ST MIRREN 14; ST MIRREN 15; ST MIRREN 16; ST MIRREN 17; ST MIRREN 18; ST MIRREN 19; ST MIRREN 20; ST MIRREN 21; ST MIRREN 22; ST MIRREN 23; ST MIRREN 24; ST MIRREN 25; ST MIRREN 26; ST MIRREN 27; ST MIRREN 28; ST MIRREN 29; ST MIRREN 30; ST MIRREN 31; ST MIRREN 32; ST MIRREN 33; ST MIRREN 34; ST MIRREN 35; ST MIRREN 36; ST MIRREN 37; ST MIRREN 38; ST MIRREN 39; ST MIRREN 40; ST MIRREN 41; 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THE TIMES WEDNESDAY APRIL 28 1999

# Quizzical snapshot of the English at play

**W**as Martin Parr, who made *Thinking of England* for BBC2 Modern Times, sniggering at that middle-aged couple in their seaside bed-and-breakfast as they admitted never having been abroad (thereby, they were sure, sparing them nummy upsets), and as they swooned at the loveliness of their modest lodgings, and as they licked their lips when their traditional Sunday-roast-and-three-veg arrived? Or was Parr celebrating the contentment they were able to reap from the native pleasures of England, while their compatriots waited in airport lounges for delayed flights to overcrowded resorts in too hot countries?

Much of Parr's film hugged that thin line between laughing with people and laughing at them — those Little Englanders, those martinet Liverpudlians, those braying champagne drinkers at Henley. But part of Parr's talent as

a stills photographer — he is a Magnum man — is that however unglamorous the poses in which he catches his subjects, an underlying sense of affection stops the photographs looking (too) cruel.

He has perfected this photographic art so magnificently, you wondered at first why he should bother to make a film; much as you might wonder what the point is of transferring a bespoke radio show such as *Just A Minute* to television. But in *Thinking of England* Parr has succeeded in capturing the flavour of his snapshots of English life on video, too. Here again, were his usual suspects: sandwiches eaten in car seats by couples looking out to sea; Thermos flasks; windswept beaches; village cricket; men watching football on a pub's TV; village fêtes; tombolas; biggest-rhubarb competitions; pony rides on the beach; jingoism; racism; friendliness; poached salmon eaten from the boots of Rolls-

Royes during the Season; train-spotters at Crewe on a Sunday afternoon; there was even a bald man protecting his head from the sun with a knotted handkerchief.

T he angle of the camera, the way the shots were framed, meant you could have taken stills from this film and still recognised in them Martin Parr's photographic signature. It bore something of the relationship to Parr's *photographs* that an animated film has to the cartoon strip on which it is based. Here, instead of having to guess what his subjects might be thinking, we could actually hear them. What did this man in a supermarket like about England? "Everything. I fought in the war, put it that way."

Nobody really had too bad a word to say for the plate. It may not always have been an Englishness you empathise with, but it was nevertheless an affectionate film made by a member of the family.

## REVIEW

**Joe Joseph**

could easily recognise. Parr's isn't necessarily a portrait of England you would want foreigners to see: it is one thing if you squint at something that your mother said, but that doesn't mean you would tolerate an outsider taking portraits at her. *Thinking of England* wasn't always uplifting, but it was nevertheless an affectionate film made by a member of the family, for the family.

For a truly depressing snapshot of English life, you could have watched *The Decision: Dodger* (Channel 4), about a boy hopelessly trapped in the vortex of despair and delinquency. David Richardson, known as Dodger, has spent a third of his 15 years in care. He is clearly scarred by his mother's decision — taken when he was seven — to sign him over to social services. "You could get us back earlier, but you didn't want us back," he still scolds her.

Dodger skips school. He is in trouble with the police. His health is poor. The abdication of parental responsibility seems obvious to everybody except Dodger's mother Jackie, whose cussed manner has exasperated 17 social workers over the years. Emotionally brutalised, Dodger is also physically deprived. Although he is back at home with his mother and sister, they take it in turns to sleep on the one bed in the house. Dena, his

social worker, is driven to despair by the mother's attitude. Eventually she feels she has no alternative but to recommend taking Dodger back into care. The most depressing aspect of this decision is not that it almost ensures Dodger will be catapulted into stormier emotional turmoil and maybe even closer familiarity with the police, but that this bleak option was thought the rosiest prospect on Dodger's horizon.

But BBC2's new series *Ready to Wear*, showed that Englishmen have come a long way since the 1950s, when even a pattern on your socks, let alone a tuxedo in an Alton suit, might lead people to think — as one contributor put it — you were "that way". Still, Englishmen's initial rebellion against the suit were not always successful. They leapt into flares you could have a family of refugees under: lapels as wide as Heathrow landing strips; and tank tops so colourful that they must have been made of leftovers from their granny's wool box. Some of Martin Parr's most endearing photographs are of Englishmen who still dress this way.

BBC1  
6.00am Business Breakfast (1056)  
7.00 BBC Breakfast News (T) (72003)  
9.00 Kibroy (T) (9567770) 9.45 Celebrity Ready, Steady, Cook (T) (737409)  
10.15 The Vanessa Show (T) (7290634)  
11.00 News; Weather (T) (5428374)  
11.05 City Hospital (T) (9638003)  
11.55 News; Weather (T) (6041026)  
12.00 Going for a Song (8899193)  
12.25pm Just a Minute (T) (5689490)  
12.25pm The Weather Show (T) (11135428)  
1.00 News; Weather (T) (75190)  
1.30 Regional News; Weather (58656480)  
1.40 Neighbours (T) (9578119)  
2.00 Through the Keyhole (T) (9816)  
2.30 Snooker and Racing from Ascot Snooker: Quarter-final coverage from the Crucible Theatre in Sheffield. Racing: 3.05 Insupak Segaro Stakes and the 3.40 Insupak Victoria Cup (78745)  
4.00 Children's BBC: Starhill Ponies (1853312) 4.10 The Adventures of Shirley Holmes (7874596) 4.35 The Demon Headmaster (7013119) 5.00 Newsround (5045916) 5.10 Blue Peter (2806515)  
5.35 Neighbours (T) (25664)  
6.00 Six O'Clock News; Weather (T) (683)  
6.30 Regional News Magazine (936)  
7.00 Holiday Behaviour: Men Behaving Badly stars Leslie Ash, Neil Morrissey, Caroline Quentin and Martin Clunes send postcards from such diverse destinations as London, San Francisco, Costa Rica and Peru in Australia (T) (6472)  
7.30 Tomorrow's World: WebWise Special Hale and Pace join Philippa Forrester and Peter Snow at the British Library in London for the launch of the BBC's technology education campaign (T) (119).  
8.00 Changing Rooms Neighbours in Wales take up the challenge of transforming a room in each other's house (T) (T) (9480)  
8.30 Battersea Dogs' Home (T) (524596)  
8.50 The National Lottery: Greatest Hits Angela Griffin presents the midweek draw, with live music from Curiosity Killed the Cat (T) (400577)  
9.00 News; Weather (T) (6751)  
9.25 National Lottery Update (980041)  
9.30 Party Election Broadcast By the Liberal Democrats (T) (244049)

Star chef Jamie Oliver prepares a feast of fresh pasta (6pm)

BBC2  
7.00am Children's BBC Breakfast: Noddy in Toyland (74641) 7.30 Top Cat (8517645) 7.55 Trading Places: French Exchange (8872138) 8.20 Dastardly and Muttley 8.40 Polka Dot Shorts 8.50 Pingou (3059312) 8.58 Tales from the Net (180819) 9.00 The Geography Programme 9.10 Numberline (4588393) 9.25 Folk Dance (910799) 9.45 Words and Pictures 10.00 Telebabies (70157) 10.30 Numberline 10.45 Cats' Eyes (9028645) 11.05 Number Adventures (697480) 11.20 The Geography Programme 11.40 Science in Action (2847393) 12.00 Shakespeare: The Animated Tales (25206) 12.30pm Working Lunch (43190)

1.00 Children's BBC: Brush (39708157)

1.10 Snooker and Racing from Ascot Snooker: Action from the second day of the quarter-finals. Racing: The 2.30 EBF Insupak Swinley Stakes (82461022)

2.45 News; Weather (T) (8827101)

2.50 Westminster (T) (6104461)

3.55 News; Weather (T) (7688577)

4.00 Snooker and Racing from Ascot Snooker: Quarter-final coverage. Racing: The 4.10 Gardener Merchant Pavilion Stakes (2146303)

5.50 Lifeline (84577) 6.00 Star Trek: The Next Generation (T) (188954)

6.45 Snooker: World Championship Conclusion of the quarter-finals (586003)

7.28 Tales from the Net (T) (587645)

7.30 CHOICE: Leviathan Celebrities pay tribute to Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland (451)

HTV WEST  
5.30am HTV Morning News (55886)  
9.25 Trisha (T) (3153751)  
10.30 This Morning (T) (49777119)  
12.15pm HTV News (T) (7623003)  
12.30 HTV News; Weather (T) (2521517)  
12.55 Shortland Street (131395)  
1.30 Home and Away Has Marilyn committed suicide? (T) (16713461)  
1.53 The Jerry Springer Show Outrageous American talk show (T) (5688119)  
2.40 Wheel of Fortune (T) (2577374)  
3.10 HTV News Headlines (T) (5378770)  
3.15 HTV News (T) (5377041)  
3.20 CTV: Meisy (5374054) 3.35 The Story Store (692190) 3.40 Jumanji (200840)  
4.05 Hey Arnold! (7972916) 4.35 Wildtrack (7031515)

5.00 Home and Away (T) (5864)

5.30 Live and Local (138)

5.58 HTV Weather (844022)

6.00 HTV News (T) (122312)

6.25 Party Election Broadcast By the Liberal Democrats (461848)

6.28 Crimestoppers (61848)

6.30 HTV Evening News; Weather (T) (913)

7.00 Emmerdale Biff and Chris come to blows (T) (5428)

7.30 Coronation Street Mike's future looks increasingly bleak (T) (515)

CENTRAL  
As HTV West except:  
12.20-12.30pm Central News and Weather (9841732)

12.55 Home and Away (2239848)

1.25 The Jerry Springer Show (4403664)

2.10-2.40 Echo Point (8947635)

3.15-3.20 Central News; Weather (S377041)

3.50 Shortland Street (138)

1.30 Home and Away Has Marilyn committed suicide? (T) (16713461)

1.53 The Jerry Springer Show Outrageous American talk show (T) (5688119)

2.40 Wheel of Fortune (T) (2577374)

3.10 HTV News Headlines (T) (5378770)

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CHANNEL 4  
6.00am Sesame Street (T) (71026)  
7.00 The Big Breakfast (98041)

9.00 Schools: The English Programme (30138) 9.30 Rat-A-Tat-Tat (7948732)

9.45 Book Box (7976515) 10.45 All About Us (1184225) 10.50 The Number Crew (3500480) 10.49 Pitch Fever (6047770)

11.00 First Edition (V) (6940577) 11.15 The X File (9653428)

11.30 Powerhouse (T) (6434)

12.00 Sesame Street (T) (10374)

12.30pm Bewitched (T) (76886)

1.00 Suddenly Susan (64288)

1.30 The Moonies nostalgic (T) (5857370)

1.45 Powerhouse The endangered warthog (T) (13533935)

1.55 The Pied Piper (1942) wartime adventure about French children escaping from the Nazis. Monty Wooley and Roddy McDowall star. Directed by Irving Pichel (T) (2169770)

2.30 Party Election Broadcast By the Liberal Democrats (461848)

2.45 CrimeStoppers (61848)

3.00 Five-0 (T) (916)

3.30 Countdown (T) (7030865)

4.45 Ricki Lake (T) (9885119)

5.30 Pet Rescue (T) (480)

6.00 Dawson's Creek Dawson wins a prize for his short film. Jen lets her hair down at a party and Andie attempts to boost Pacay's self-esteem (T) (184374)

6.50 Tidore (984886)

7.00 Channel 4 News; Weather (T) (478041)

7.55 Margaret Thatcher: Where Am I Now? Steve Bell's animated look at the Thatcher years (3/5) (1) (374883)

8.00 Brookside (T) (2190)

8.30 She's Gotta Have It how to look stylish at work without breaking the bank, plus two women buy a new outfit on vastly different budgets (T) (1225)

CHANNEL 5  
6.00am 5 News and Sport With Becky Anderson (5361041)

7.00 WideWorld Part four. Media attention surrounding the American President, including interviews with Jimmy Carter and Gerald Ford (T) (228157)

7.30 Milkshake (2016515)

7.35 Muppet Babies: 5 News Update (4427428)

8.00 Hawaiki (T) (8210461)

8.30 Dinglesdown Farm (T); 5 News Update (6219732)

9.00 The Roseanne Show (T) (5923770)

9.50 Russell Grant's Postcards (T) (6331003)

9.55 The Bold and the Beautiful James receives a shock the morning after (T) (8157022)

10.20 Sunset Beach Cole realises the truth about Troy (T) (4623883)

11.10 Leesa (T) (635848)

12.00 5 News at Noon (T) (228048)

12.30pm Family Affairs (T); 5 News Update (9231567)

1.00 The Oprah Winfrey Show The chat show host talks to the Duchess of York (4298409)

1.50 McMillan and Wife: Reunion In Terror (TVM 1975) Mac is drawn into another high-profile case while attending his high school reunion. Mystery thriller, with Rock Hudson and Susan Saint James. Directed by Mel Ferrer. 5 News Update (54042628)

